

ESTTA Tracking number: **ESTTA966168**Filing date: **04/10/2019**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**Notice of Opposition**

Notice is hereby given that the following party opposes registration of the indicated application.

Opposer Information

Name	Guns N' Roses		
Entity	Partnership	Citizenship	California
Composed Of:	W. Axl Rose Saul Hudson Michael "Duff" McKagan		
Address	c/o LL Management Group West, LLC 5950 Canoga Ave., Ste. 510 Woodland Hills, CA 91367 UNITED STATES		

Attorney information	Jill M. Pietrini Esq. Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1600 Los Angeles, CA 90067 UNITED STATES LGlenn@sheppardmullin.com, jpietrini@sheppardmullin.com, JJuettner@sheppardmullin.com, RWalsh@sheppardmullin.com, MDanner@sheppardmullin.com, SHwang@sheppardmullin.com, RLHudson@sheppardmullin.com 310-228-3700
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Applicant Information

Application No	87947921	Publication date	03/12/2019
Opposition Filing Date	04/10/2019	Opposition Period Ends	04/11/2019
Applicant	ALDI Inc. 1200 N. Kirk Road Batavia, IL 60510 UNITED STATES		

Goods/Services Affected by Opposition

Class 029. First Use: 0 First Use In Commerce: 0
All goods and services in the class are opposed, namely: cheese, namely, cheddar cheese

Grounds for Opposition

Priority and likelihood of confusion	Trademark Act Section 2(d)
False suggestion of a connection with persons, living or dead, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, or brings them into contempt, or disrepute	Trademark Act Section 2(a)

Mark Cited by Opposer as Basis for Opposition

U.S. Application/ Registration No.	NONE	Application Date	NONE
Registration Date	NONE		
Word Mark	SWEET CHILD O' MINE. [Sweet Child O Mine is one of Guns N Roses famous songs, written, performed, and recorded by the members of Guns N Roses for their 1987 album, Appetite For Destruction. The song has acquired secondary meaning.]		
Goods/Services	Musical sound recordings; live musical performances; clothing		

Attachments	GNR - ALDI - Notice of Opposition.pdf(3810906 bytes)
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Signature	/Jill M. Pietrini/
Name	Jill M. Pietrini Esq.
Date	04/10/2019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

<p><i>In re Matter of Application No 87/947,921 for the mark: SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE in Class 29</i></p> <p>GUNS N' ROSES,</p> <p>Opposer,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>ALDI INC.,</p> <p>Applicant.</p>	<p>Opposition No. _____</p> <p>NOTICE OF OPPOSITION</p>
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Commissioner for Trademarks
ATTN: Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1451

Dear Commissioner:

Opposer, Guns N' Roses, a California partnership, composed of W. Axl Rose, Saul Hudson, and Michael "Duff" McKagan, all U.S. citizens, having its principal place of business at 5950 Canoga Ave., Ste. 510, c/o LL Management Group West, LLC, Woodland Hills, California 91367 ("Opposer"), believes that it and W. Axl Rose and Saul Hudson (members of Guns N' Roses) will be harmed by the registration of the mark SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE, as shown in Application Serial No. 87/947,921 in Class 29 ("Application"), and hereby opposes registration on the following grounds:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND REGARDING OPPOSER'S GUNS N' ROSES MARK

1. Opposer is the partnership associated with Guns N' Roses, the world-renowned and multiplatinum-selling musical group. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct printout from the informational website Wikipedia describing the Guns N' Roses musical group. Over the past thirty years, Guns N' Roses has released nineteen singles, six full-length studio albums, two live albums, two compilation albums, and three extended play albums, and has performed countless concerts around the world. *See Id.* and **Exhibit B**, which are true and correct printouts from Guns N' Roses' official website at <gunsnroses.com>. Guns N' Roses also has been nominated for and won numerous music awards, including awards from the American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, Brit Awards, Echo Awards, Juno Awards, MTV Video Music Awards, World Music Awards, and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, i.e., the Grammy Awards. *See Exhibit C*, which is a true and correct printout from Wikipedia describing Guns N' Roses' numerous awards.

2. One of Guns N' Roses' most famous songs is "Sweet Child O' Mine." Such song was written, performed, and recorded by the members of Guns N' Roses for their 1987 album, *Appetite For Destruction*. *See Exhibit D*, which is a true and correct printout from the informational website Wikipedia for the *Appetite For Destruction* album. Since its release, the song has sold more than 1 million copies and is among Guns N' Roses top streamed songs across the major music streaming platforms. *See Exhibit E*, attached hereto which are true printouts from the Recording Industry Association of America, Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, and Pandora relating to the song "Sweet Child O' Mine". The song "Sweet Child O' Mine" has acquired secondary meaning and is associated with Opposer and its members.

3. Opposer uses "SWEET CHILD O' MINE" as a trademark on clothing and musical sound recordings.

4. Two of the signature poses of Opposer while performing are that of lead singer W. Axl Rose and guitarist Saul Hudson, shown below:



5. Because of Guns N' Roses' tremendous success and acclaim and particularly the success of the song "Sweet Child O' Mine" and merchandising associated with that song, millions of fans have come to associate the poses of members of the opposer and the song "Sweet Child O' Mine" with Opposer.

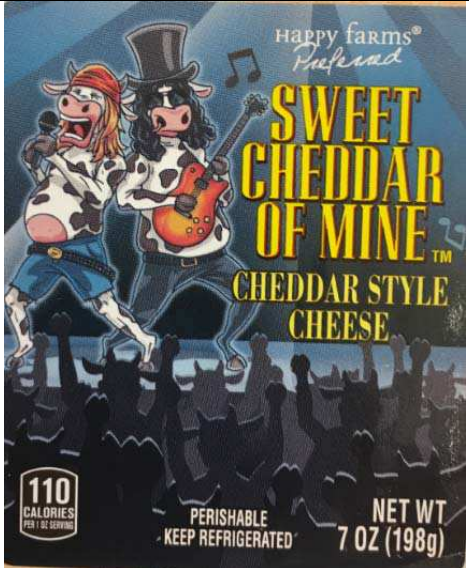

FACTUAL BACKGROUND REGARDING THE APPLICATION

6. On June 4, 2018, ALDI, Inc., an Illinois corporation, having a business address at 1200 N. Kirk Road, Batavia, Illinois 60510 ("Applicant"), filed the Application, on an intent-to-use basis, to register SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE in standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size, or color for use with "cheese, namely, cheddar cheese" in Class 29.

7. The Application was published for opposition in the *Official Gazette* on March 12, 2019.

8. The packaging for the goods includes the applied for mark and cartoon images of two cows performing to an audience clearly drawn to imitate W. Axl Rose and Saul Hudson's signature style and movements. The first cow is dressed in a red bandana and singing into a

clutched microphone. The second cow is playing a cherry sunburst colored guitar in a crouched stance while wearing a top hat, sunglasses, and a nose ring. The depiction of the cows for Applicant's packaging bearing the SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE trademark intentionally copies aspects of the signature poses of W. Axl Rose and Saul Hudson. See chart below for comparison.

Applicant's Packaging	Opposer (left to right: W. Axl Rose & Saul Hudson)
	

FIRST GROUND – LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION

9. Opposer incorporates the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 to 8 herein.
10. Applicant's proposed mark is confusingly similar to Opposer's famous song title and trademark "Sweet Child O' Mine".
11. Applicant's proposed mark, particularly with the packaging for Applicant's products sold under Applicant's mark, is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception as to the source, origin, affiliation, association, connection, or sponsorship of Applicant's goods offered under the SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE mark with Opposer, Opposer's members, or Opposer's activities.

SECOND GROUND – FALSE SUGGESTION OF A CONNECTION

12. Opposer incorporates the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 to 11 herein.

13. The song title and trademark “Sweet Child O’ Mine” are associated with Opposer. Opposer and its members are and have been famous and world renowned for many years.

14. Applicant’s proposed mark is the same as, or a close approximation of, the song title and trademark “Sweet Child O’ Mine”, which was previously used by and associated with Opposer. The proposed mark SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE is recognized as such, in that it uniquely and unmistakably points to Opposer or its lead singer W. Axl Rose and/or its guitarist Saul Hudson. Neither Opposer nor its individual members are connected with the goods sold, to be sold, offered, or to be offered by Applicant under the SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE mark; and the fame and reputation of Opposer and of its song and trademark “Sweet Child O’ Mine” is of such a nature that a connection with Opposer or its lead singer W. Axl Rose and other members is presumed when Applicant’s SWEET CHEDDAR OF MINE mark is used for or with Applicant’s goods.

15. The mark shown in the Application is associated with Opposer, and thus, falsely suggests a connection with Opposer.

DAMAGE TO OPPOSER

16. As a result of all of the foregoing, the maturation of the Application into registration would cause (a) a likelihood of confusion, mistake, affiliation, association, or deception with Opposer and its members; and (b) a false suggestion of a connection with Opposer and/or W. Axl Rose or other members of Opposer.

17. Opposer would be damaged by the registration of the mark shown in the Application, in that such registration would give Applicant a *prima facie* exclusive right to the use of GUNS N’ ROSES, despite the likelihood of confusion and false suggestion of a connection described above.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Opposer prays that this Opposition be sustained in favor of Opposer, that the Application be rejected, and that registration of the Application be refused.

Opposer requests that the Board charge the requisite \$400 opposition filing fee, under 37 C.F.R. § 2.6(a)(17), and any additional fees as necessary to Deposit Account No. 50-4561.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 10, 2019

/Jill M. Pietrini/

Jill M. Pietrini

Paul A. Bost

SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1600

Los Angeles, California 90067-6017

(310) 228-3700

Attorneys for Opposer Guns N' Roses

CERTIFICATE OF E-FILING

I hereby certify that **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION** is being transmitted electronically to Commissioner of Trademarks, Attn: Trademark Trial and Appeal Board through ESTTA pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §2.195(a), on this 10th day of April, 2019.

/LaTrina A. Glenn/

LaTrina A. Glenn

SMRH:489749257.1

EXHIBIT A

Guns N' Roses

Guns N' Roses, often abbreviated as **GNR**, is an American hard rock band from Los Angeles, California, formed in 1985. When they signed to Geffen Records in 1986, the band comprised vocalist Axl Rose, lead guitarist Slash, rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin, bassist Duff McKagan, and drummer Steven Adler. The current lineup consists of Rose, Slash, McKagan, keyboardist Dizzy Reed, guitarist Richard Fortus, drummer Frank Ferrer and keyboardist Melissa Reese.

Guns N' Roses' debut album, *Appetite for Destruction* (1987), reached number one on the *Billboard 200* a year after its release, on the strength of "Sweet Child o' Mine", the band's only single to reach number one on the *Billboard Hot 100*. The album has sold approximately 30 million copies worldwide, including 18 million units in the United States, making it the country's bestselling debut album and eleventh-best-selling album. Their next studio album, *G N' R Lies* (1988), reached number two on the *Billboard 200*. *Use Your Illusion I* and *Use Your Illusion II*, recorded simultaneously and released in 1991, debuted at number two and number one on the *Billboard 200* respectively and have sold a combined 35 million copies worldwide, including 14 million units in the United States. *"The Spaghetti Incident?"* (1993), an album of covers, was the band's last studio album to feature Slash and McKagan.

Chinese Democracy (2008), Guns N' Roses' long-awaited sixth studio album, was released after more than a decade of work and several lineup changes. At an estimated \$14 million in production costs, it is the most expensive rock album in history. It debuted at number three on the *Billboard 200*, but undersold industry expectations despite mostly positive critical reception. Slash and McKagan rejoined the band in 2016 for the Not in This Lifetime... Tour, which became the fourth-highest-grossing concert tour of all time, grossing over \$480 million by December 2017.

In their early years, the band's hedonism and rebelliousness drew comparisons to the early Rolling Stones and earned them the nickname "the most dangerous band in the world." The band's classic lineup, along with later members Reed and drummer Matt Sorum, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012, its first year of eligibility. Guns N' Roses have sold more than 100 million records worldwide, including 45 million in the United States, making them the 41st-best-selling artist of all time.

Guns N' Roses



Guns N' Roses in 2017. From left to right: Dizzy Reed, Richard Fortus, Duff McKagan, Axl Rose, Slash, Melissa Reese & Frank Ferrer

Background information

Also known as	G N' R, GNR
Origin	Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Genres	Hard rock · heavy metal
Years active	1985–present
Labels	Geffen · UMG · Uzi Suicide · Black Frog
Associated acts	BulletBoys · the Dead · Daisies · Hollywood Rose · Johnny Crash · Kings of Chaos · L.A. Guns · Love Spit Love · Metallica · Neurotic Outsiders · Nine Inch Nails · Praxis · Primus · the Psychedelic Furs · Road Crew · Slash's Snakepit · Velvet Revolver
Website	gunsnroses.com (http://gunsnroses.com)
Members	Axl Rose Duff McKagan Slash Dizzy Reed Richard Fortus Frank Ferrer Melissa Reese

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Past members	See: List of Guns N' Roses band members
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Legacy, style, influence, and criticism

- Band members
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History

Formation (1985–1986)

In 1984, Hollywood Rose member Izzy Stradlin was living with L.A. Guns member Tracii Guns.^{[1][2]} When L.A. Guns needed a new vocalist, Stradlin suggested Hollywood Rose singer Axl Rose.^[1] Guns N' Roses was formed in March 1985 by Rose and rhythm guitarist Stradlin, along with lead guitarist Tracii Guns, bassist Ole Beich, and drummer Rob Gardner of L.A. Guns.^[3] The band coined its name by combining the names of both previous groups. Rejected names for the band included "Heads of Amazon" and "AIDS".^[4] Their first show, promoted as "L.A. Guns and Hollywood Rose presents Guns N Roses", was on March 26, 1985.^[5] After this show, Beich was fired and replaced by Duff McKagan.^[6] Around this time, the band planned to release an EP with "Don't Cry", a cover of "Heartbreak Hotel", "Think About You" and "Anything Goes"; the band demoed the songs during their first radio interview.^[7] However, plans for the release fell through, as Guns left the band after an argument with Rose leading to his replacement by Rose and Stradlin's one-time Hollywood Rose bandmate, Slash.^[1] Gardner quit soon after and was replaced by another former Hollywood Rose member, Steven Adler.^{[8][9]} Slash had also previously played with McKagan and Adler in Road Crew.^{[9][10]}



The original lineup of Guns N' Roses in March 1985. From left to right: Rob Gardner, Izzy Stradlin, Axl Rose, Tracii Guns and Ole Beich.

The band's "classic" lineup was finalized on June 4, 1985 when Adler and Slash officially joined.^[11] After two days of rehearsals, the band played their first show with the lineup on June 6, 1985.^[11] Two days later, the band embarked on a short, disorganized tour of the West Coast, from Sacramento, California, to McKagan's hometown of Seattle, Washington.^{[12][13]} The band drove in a separate van and had to abandon their gear when both vans broke down on the way to Seattle, forcing them to hitch-hike up the coast and back home to LA with only their guitars.^{[14][15]}

The so-called "Hell Tour" settled the band's first stable lineup, with McKagan later commenting, "This trip had set a new benchmark for what we were capable of, what we could and would put ourselves through to achieve our goals as a band."^[12]

Through the band's increasing presence on the Hollywood club scene – playing famed bars such as The Troubadour and The Roxy – Guns N' Roses drew the attention of major record labels.^{[4][16]} The group signed with Geffen Records in March 1986, receiving a \$75,000 advance.^[4] They had turned down an offer from Chrysalis Records that was nearly double Geffen's, due to Chrysalis wanting to change the band's image and sound and Geffen offering full artistic freedom.^[17]

In December of that year, the group released the four-song EP *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide*, designed to keep interest in the band alive while the group withdrew from the club scene to work in the studio.^{[18][19]} The EP release was designed to sooth over the label, who felt the band didn't have enough songs to record an album.^[20] The EP contained covers of Rose Tattoo's "Nice Boys" and Aerosmith's "Mama Kin", along with two original compositions: the punk-influenced "Reckless Life" and the classic rock-inspired "Move to the City". Although billed as a live recording, the four songs were taken from the band's demo tapes and overdubbed with crowd noise. *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide* was released on the Geffen subsidiary Uzi Suicide, with production limited to 10,000 vinyl copies.^[21]

Seeking to record their debut album, producer Spencer Proffer was hired to record "Nightrain" and "Sweet Child o' Mine" to test his chemistry with the band.^[22] The band eventually recorded 9 songs during these sessions, including "Heartbreak Hotel", "Don't Cry", "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Shadow of Your Love".^[22] The band then recorded demos with Nazareth guitarist Manny Charlton,^[22] (which were released in 2018).^[23] Paul Stanley of KISS was considered as producer, but he was rejected after he wanted to change Adler's drum set more than Adler wanted.^[22] Robert John "Mutt" Lange was also considered, but the label didn't want to spend the extra money on a famous producer.^[22] Ultimately, Mike Clink (who had produced several Triumph records) was chosen,^[24] and the group recorded "Shadow of Your Love" first with Clink as a test.^[22] After some weeks of rehearsal, the band entered Daryl Dragon's Rumbo Records in January 1987 to record their debut album.^[22] Two weeks were spent recording basic tracks, with a month of overdubs.^[25] The drums were done in six days, but Rose's vocals took much longer as he insisted on doing them one line at a time.^[26]

Breakthrough and mass popularity (1987–1989)

Appetite for Destruction

We had a singer (Mike Jagosz) that our manager didn't like, so we fired him. So then I asked Axl to join L.A. Guns and he was in the band for about six, seven months. The same manager ended up hating Axl and he wanted to fire him. We're all living together at this point and Axl and I sat down and went 'What are we going to do?' So we both said 'Fuck that', and came up with the name Guns N' Roses, which was going to be just a record label that we'd put singles out on.

—Original guitarist Tracii Guns^[1]



Guns N' Roses classic lineup, from left to right, Izzy Stradlin, Steven Adler, Axl Rose, Duff McKagan, & Slash.



Guitarist Slash (left) and lead singer Axl Rose (right) were the band's most public faces during its late 1980s-early 1990s heyday

Guns N' Roses' debut album *[Appetite for Destruction](#)* was released July 21, 1987.^[27] The album underwent an artwork change after the original cover design by [Robert Williams](#), which depicted a surrealist scene in which a dagger-toothed monster vengefully attacks a robot rapist, was deemed too controversial.^{[28][29][30]} The band stated the original artwork was "a symbolic social statement, with the robot representing the industrial system that's raping and polluting our environment."^[28] The revised cover was done by Andy Engell, based on a design by tattoo artist Bill White Jr., who had designed the artwork for a tattoo Rose had acquired the previous year.^[31] The artwork featured each of the five band members' skulls layered on a cross.^[28]

The band's first single was "It's So Easy", released on June 15, 1987 in the UK only, where it reached number eighty-four on the [UK Singles Chart](#).^[32] In the U.S., "[Welcome to the Jungle](#)" was issued as the album's first single in October, with an accompanying music video. Initially, the album and single lingered for almost a year without performing well, but when Geffen founder [David Geffen](#) was asked to lend support to the band, he obliged, personally convincing [MTV](#) executives to play "Welcome to the Jungle" during the network's after-hours rotation.^[33] Even though the video was initially only played once at 4 a.m. on a Sunday, [heavy metal](#) and [hard rock](#) fans took notice and soon began requesting the video and song en masse.^[34] The song, written in Seattle, was about Los Angeles. The music video took place in New York. According to Rose, the inspiration for the lyrics came from an encounter he and a friend had with a homeless man while they were coming out of a bus into New York.^[35] Trying to put a scare into the young runaways, the man yelled at them, "You know where you are? You're in the jungle baby; you're gonna die!"^{[35][36]} The song was featured in the 1988 [Dirty Harry](#) film *[The Dead Pool](#)*, starring [Clint Eastwood](#), and members of the band had a [cameo appearance](#) in the film.^{[37][38]}

"Sweet Child o' Mine" was the album's second U.S. single, a love song co-written by Rose as a poem for his then-girlfriend Erin Everly, daughter of Don Everly of the [Everly Brothers](#).^{[39][40]} Due to the growing [grassroots](#) success of the band and the cross-gender appeal of the song, "Sweet Child o' Mine" and its accompanying music video received heavy airplay on both radio and MTV, becoming a huge hit during the summer of 1988 and reaching the top of the charts in the U.S.^[40] Slash later commented, "I hated that song with a huge passion for the longest time, and it turned out to be our hugest hit, so it goes to show what I

Guns N' Roses "Welcome to the Jungle" (1987)

0:00

Sample of "*[Welcome to the Jungle](#)*" from *[Appetite for Destruction](#)*, the album's opening track and the band's first single in the United States.

Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).

know."^[39] The song was released in Japan as part of the EP *Live from the Jungle*, which also featured a selection of live recordings from the band's June 1987 dates at London's *The Marquee*, the group's first shows outside the United States.^{[41][42]} The song is the highest charting Guns N' Roses song, and is the band's only song to reach number one on the *Billboard* *Hot 100*.^[43]



Steven Adler (left) was the band's drummer from 1985 to 1990, when he was replaced by Matt Sorum (right). Sorum was fired from the band in 1997.

After the success of "Sweet Child o' Mine", "Welcome to the Jungle" was re-issued as a single and reached No. 7 in the U.S. By the time "Paradise City" and its video reached the airwaves, peaking at No. 5 in the U.S., *Appetite for Destruction* had reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200. To date, the album has sold in excess of 30 million copies worldwide,^{[44][45]} including 18 million units sold in the United States, making it the best-selling debut album of all time in the U.S, in addition to being the eleventh best-selling album in the United States.^{[46][47][48][49]}

Guns N' Roses toured extensively in support of their debut album, embarking on the 16-month-long *Appetite for Destruction Tour*.^{[50][51]} In addition to headlining dates in Europe and the U.S., the band opened North American shows for *The Cult*, *Mötley Crüe*, and *Alice Cooper* throughout the second half of 1987. During the 1987 tour, drummer Steven Adler broke his hand in a fight, and was replaced for 8 shows by *Cinderella* drummer *Fred Coury*.^[52] Bassist Duff McKagan missed several shows in May 1988 to attend his wedding; *Kid "Haggis" Chaos* from *The Cult* filled in.^[53] *Don Henley* of the *Eagles* played drums for the band during the 1989 *AMA* show while Adler was in rehab.^[54]

The band proceeded to tour the United States, Australia and Japan, while serving as opening acts on North America shows by *Iron Maiden* and *Aerosmith*.^{[55][56]} *Tim Collins*, *Aerosmith*'s then-manager, remarked, "By the end of the tour, Guns N' Roses were huge. They basically just exploded. We were all pissed that *Rolling Stone Magazine* showed up to do a story on *Aerosmith*, but Guns N' Roses ended up on the cover of the magazine. Suddenly, the opening act was bigger than we were."^{[57][58]}

G N' R Lies

Guns N' Roses' second album, *G N' R Lies*, was released in November 1988.^[59] It included the four recordings from the band's 1986 EP *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide* as well as four new acoustic tracks.^[60] "Patience", the only single, reached number 4 in the U.S., while the album reached number 2.^{[61][62]} The album cover, a parody of tabloid newspapers, was modified after initial pressings to remove the headlines "Wife-beating has been around for 10,000 years" and "Ladies, welcome to the dark ages".^[63]

The song "One in a Million" raised accusations of racism and homophobia.^{[64][65][66][67][68]} Rose denied that he was a racist and defended his use of the word "nigger", claiming that "it's a word to describe somebody that is basically a pain in your life, a problem. The word nigger doesn't necessarily mean black." He cited the rap group N.W.A. and the John Lennon song "Woman Is the Nigger of the World" as other examples of musicians using the word.^[69] Several years later, Rose conceded that he had used the word as an insult towards black people who had tried to rob him, and because the word is a taboo.^[70] In response to the allegations of homophobia, Rose stated that he considered himself "pro-heterosexual" and blamed this attitude on "bad experiences" with gay men.^{[69][71]}

During a November 1987 show in Atlanta, Rose assaulted a security guard and was held backstage by police, while the band continued playing with a roadie singing.^{[72][73]} Riots nearly broke out during two August 1988 shows in New York State.^[74] At England's Monsters of Rock festival, held that same month, two fans were crushed to death during the group's set by the slam-dancing crowd.^{[34][75][76]} During the first of four October 1989 dates opening for the Rolling Stones at the L.A. Coliseum, Rose announced that the shows would be the group's last if certain members of the band did not stop "dancing with Mr. Brownstone", a reference to the band's song of the same name about heroin.^[77] Events such as these helped earn Guns N' Roses the moniker "the most dangerous band in the world".^{[77][78]}

International success and band turmoil (1990–1993)

Use Your Illusion I and II

In 1990, Guns N' Roses returned to the studio. Adler was briefly fired over his drug use, but was reinstated after signing a contract in which he vowed to stop taking drugs.^[79] During the recording session of "Civil War", Adler was unable to perform well due to his struggles with cocaine and heroin addiction, and caused the band to do nearly 30 takes.^[80] Adler claimed at the time he was sick from taking opiate blockers to help with the addictions.^[80] He was fired on July 11, 1990, as a result, and later filed a lawsuit against the band.^{[80][81]} In 2005, he recalled:

Doug Goldstein called me into the office about two weeks later. He wanted me to sign some contracts. I was told that every time I did heroin, the band would fine me \$2,000. There was a whole stack of papers, with colored paper clips everywhere for my signatures. What these contracts actually said was that the band were paying me \$2,000 to leave. They were taking my royalties, all my writing credits. They didn't like me anymore and just wanted me gone. That's why I filed the lawsuit – to get all those things back.^[80]

Martin Chambers of the Pretenders and Adam Maples of Sea Hags were considered as replacements.^[82] Jussi Tegelman, from local band Havana Black, assisted on drums in studio sessions before a permanent replacement was found.^{[83][84][85]} The position was filled by drummer Matt Sorum, who had played briefly with the Cult.^[86] Slash credited Sorum with preventing the band from breaking up at the time.^[86]



Izzy Stradlin was the band's rhythm guitarist from 1985 until 1991.

GUNS N' ROSES

The band's logo typeface



Duff McKagan was the band's bassist from 1985 until 1997, returning in 2016.

In response to an interviewer's suggestion that replacing Adler with Sorum had turned Guns N' Roses from a rock 'n' roll band to a heavy metal band, Stradlin responded: "Yeah, a big musical difference. The first time I realized what Steve did for the band was when he broke his hand in Michigan ... So we had Fred Coury come in from Cinderella for the Houston show. Fred played technically good and steady, but the songs sounded just awful. They were written with Steve playing the drums and his sense of swing was the push and pull that give the songs their feel. When that was gone, it was just ... unbelievable, weird. Nothing worked."^[87]

A few months prior, keyboardist Dizzy Reed became the sixth member of the group when he joined as a full-time member.^[90] Reed was previously bandmates with Sorum in Johnny Crash.^[91] Guns N' Roses band fired its manager, Alan Niven, replacing him with Doug Goldstein in May 1991.^[92]

According to a 1991 cover story by

Rolling Stone, Rose forced the dismissal of Niven against the wishes of some of his bandmates by refusing to complete the albums until he was replaced.^[92]

The band released the recordings as two albums, Use Your Illusion I and Use Your Illusion II, on September 17, 1991.^{[93][94]} The tactic paid off when the albums debuted at No. 2 and No. 1 respectively in the Billboard charts, making Guns N' Roses the only act to achieve this feat until hip hop artist Nelly in 2004.^{[95][96]} The albums sold 770,000 units (Use Your Illusion II) and 685,000 units (Use Your Illusion I) in their first week,^[97] and spent 108 weeks on the chart.^[95] They have sold a combined 35 million copies worldwide,^[98] including 14 million in the United States.^[46]

Guns N' Roses accompanied the Use Your Illusion albums with many videos, including "Don't Cry", "November Rain" and "Estranged", some the most expensive music videos ever made. The ballad "November Rain" reached number 3 in the US and became the most requested video on MTV, eventually winning the 1992 MTV Video Music Award for best cinematography. At 8.57, it is also the longest song in US chart history to reach the top ten. During the awards show, the band performed the song with Elton John accompanying on piano.^[99]

Use Your Illusion Tour

Before the release of the albums, Guns N' Roses embarked on the 28-month-long Use Your Illusion Tour. It became famous for both its financial success and the many controversial incidents that occurred at the shows. The tour had 192 dates in 27 countries, with over seven million people attending concerts.^[100] It is considered the "longest tour in rock history".^[100] The Use Your Illusion World Tour program included a guitar solo from Slash based on The Godfather theme, a piano-driven cover of "It's Alright" by Black Sabbath, and an extended jam on the classic rock-inspired "Move to the City", where the group showcased the ensemble of musicians assembled for the tour.^[101]

On July 2, 1991, at the Riverport Amphitheater in Maryland Heights, Missouri, outside the city of St Louis, Rose discovered that a fan was filming the show with a camera. After asking the venue's security to take away the camera, Rose jumped into the audience, had a heated confrontation with the fan, and assaulted him. After being pulled from the audience by members of the crew, Rose said, "Well, thanks to the lame-ass security, I'm going home!", threw his microphone to the ground and stormed off the stage. The angry crowd rioted, injuring dozens. Footage was captured by Robert John, who was documenting the tour. The police were unable to arrest Rose until almost a year later, as the band went overseas to continue the tour. Charges were filed against Rose, but a judge ruled that he did not directly incite the riot. In his defense, Rose stated that the Guns N' Roses security team had made four separate requests to the venue's security staff to remove the camera, which were ignored, and that other

Guns N' Roses "November Rain" (1991)

0:00

CC

MENU

Sample of "November Rain" from Use Your Illusion I, the longest song to reach top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100.^{[88][89]}

Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).

members of the band had reported being hit by bottles launched from the audience, while the security staff refused to enforce a drinking limit.^[102] As a result, *Use Your Illusion's* liner notes featured a hidden message amidst the *Thank You* section: "Fuck You, St. Louis!"^[103]

Rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin abruptly quit the band on November 7, 1991, after a repeat of the St. Louis incident nearly unfolded during a concert in Germany.^{[104][105]} Stradlin cited a combination of Rose's personal behavior, his mismanagement of the band, and difficulties being around Slash, Sorum, and McKagan due to his newfound sobriety and their continuing addictions.^{[105][106][107]} Stradlin later commented, "Once I quit drugs, I couldn't help looking around and asking myself, 'Is this all there is?' I was just tired of it; I needed to get out."^[108] The band had three weeks to find a replacement or cancel several shows. Dave Navarro from *Jane's Addiction* was considered, but according to Slash "he couldn't get it together".^[109] Stradlin was eventually replaced by Los Angeles guitarist Gilby Clarke, whom Slash credited for saving the band.^[110]

At many shows on the tour, Rose introduced Clarke to the audience, and Slash and Clarke would play "Wild Horses", a Rolling Stones cover.^[109] In late 1991, the band added a touring ensemble, including a horn section and backing vocalists.^[111] In 1993, Clarke broke his arm in a motorcycle accident during the tour, and was replaced for several weeks by Stradlin.^[112]



Dizzy Reed joined the band as keyboardist in 1990.


In 1992, the band performed three songs at the Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert.^[113] Because of the controversial song "One in a Million", activist group ACT UP demanded that the band be dropped from the bill and urged other artists to shun the group and the crowd to boo it.^[113] Members of Queen dismissed the activists, with lead guitarist Brian May stating: "People seem so blind. Don't they realize that the mere fact that Guns N' Roses are here is the biggest statement that you could get?"^[113] Slash later performed "Tie Your Mother Down" with the remaining members of Queen and Def Leppard vocalist Joe Elliott, while Rose performed "We Will Rock You" and sang a duet with Elton John on "Bohemian Rhapsody".^[114] Their personal set included "Paradise City" and "Knockin' on Heaven's Door". When the band returned to the US for the second leg of the *Use Your Illusion* Tour, they were supported by May and the Brian May Band.^[115] Rose had wanted the grunge band Nirvana as the support act, but lead singer Kurt Cobain declined.^[116]

Later that year, Guns N' Roses embarked on the Guns N' Roses/Metallica Stadium Tour with heavy metal band Metallica, supported by Faith No More, Motörhead, and Body Count. During a show in August 1992 at Montreal's Olympic Stadium, Metallica's lead singer James Hetfield suffered second-degree burns to his hands and face after malfunctions with pyrotechnics.^[117] Metallica was forced to cancel the second hour of the show, but promised to return to the city for another performance. After a long delay, during which the audience became increasingly restless, Guns N' Roses took the stage. However, the shortened time between sets did not allow for adequate tuning of stage monitors and the band members could not hear themselves. In addition, Rose claimed that his throat hurt, causing the band to leave the stage early.^[118] The cancellation led to another audience riot, in which 10 audience members and three police officers were injured. Police made at least a dozen arrests related to the incident.^[119]

The pyrotechnics incident and riot can be seen on video in *A Year and a Half in the Life of Metallica*.^[120] In a segment on the video, Hetfield mocked Rose and read his personal tour rider, making fun of various items on the list.^[120] Rose responded by addressing the crowd during a later concert, labeling Hetfield a racist for his decision to pull Body Count from the tour, called him a "stupid little cocksucker", and denigrated the rest of the band.^[120] On VH1's Behind the Music documentary about Metallica, Hetfield stated that "We couldn't relate to Axl and his attitude." Other members of Metallica and Rose stated that the groups were not friendly.^[121]

In mid-1993, former drummer Steven Adler's lawsuit was settled out of court; Adler received a back-payment check of \$2,250,000 and 15% royalties for songs he recorded.^{[122][123]}

External image

 Guns N' Roses receiving an MTV Video Music Award in 1992. From

The *Use Your Illusion* tour ended in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 17, 1993. The tour set attendance records and lasted for 28 months, in which 194 shows were played. The show in Buenos Aires marked the last time that Sorum and Clarke played in the band, and the last time Slash performed with the band until 2016.^[124]

"The Spaghetti Incident?"



Gilby Clarke replaced Izzy Stradlin as rhythm guitarist, playing from 1991 to 1994.

Initially, the band planned to release an EP of covers in 1992 or 1993, but decided to record a full album.^[125] Their fifth studio album, *"The Spaghetti Incident?"*,^[126] a collection of punk and glam rock covers, was released on November 23, 1993. Stradlin's guitar parts were rerecorded by Gilby Clarke.^[127] Many of the tracks were recorded during the same sessions as the *Illusions* albums, which were originally intended to produce 3 or 4 albums.^[83] McKagan sings on many tracks and Hanoi Rocks frontman Michael Monroe appears on "Ain't It Fun" as a guest vocalist. Slash described the recording as "spontaneous and unpainted".^[127] The title references an incident Steven Adler had in 1989; while the band was temporarily staying at an apartment in Chicago. Adler stored his drugs in a refrigerator next to the band's takeout containers, which contained Italian food. McKagan explained that Adler's code word for his stash was 'spaghetti'. In his lawsuit against the band, Adler's lawyer asked the band to "tell us about the spaghetti incident," which the band found amusing and used as the title of the album.^[128] The album debuted at number 4 on the Billboard charts, and sold 190,000 copies its first week.^[129]

The album includes a hidden track, a cover of "Look at Your Game, Girl" by the murderer Charles Manson.^[130] The track was kept secret and left off advance tapes sent to reviewers.^[130] Band manager Doug Goldstein stated: "There is a bonus track on the album, but Axl wants it to speak for itself ... It wasn't done for the critics or anybody else. It was a bonus for the fans."^[130] The inclusion of the song caused controversy, with law enforcement and victims rights groups expressing outrage.^{[131][129]} Rose said: "The reason we didn't list that song on our album is we wanted to downplay it. We don't give any credit to Charles Manson on the album." The band considered removing the song from new pressings of the album. Label president David Geffen stated: "I would hope that if Axl Rose had realized how offensive people would find this, he would not have ever recorded this song in the first place. The fact that Charles Manson would be earning money based on the fame he derived committing one of the most horrific crimes of the 20th Century is unthinkable to me."^[132] Slash mentioned that the song was "done with naive and innocent black humor on our part".^[131] Rose stated he would donate all performance royalties from the song to a nonprofit environmental organization.^{[133][132]} According to Slash, that the group intended to remove the song before learning that royalties would be donated to Bartek Frykowski, the son of Wojciech Frykowski, a victim of Manson during the Tate Murders.^{[131][134]} Geffen Records released a statement mentioning that the label's share of royalties would be donated to the Doris Tate Crime Victims Bureau.^[131] Rose can be seen wearing a Manson shirt in the video for "Estranged" and during a concert in Milton Keynes, England, in 1993. Rose explained wearing the shirt as "trying to make a statement" because "a lot of people enjoy playing me as the bad guy and the crazy. Sorry, I'm not that guy. I'm nothing like him."^[133] Years later, Rose said the song would be removed from new pressings of the album, claiming that critics and the media had misinterpreted his interest in Manson;^[135] however, it is still featured on pressings of the album.^[136]

Lineup changes and sporadic activity (1994–1999)

Between 1994 and 1996, the band sporadically recorded new material. Slash stated that most of this was written by Rose,^[137] but in 2008, Rose wrote on the band's website that Rose was allowed very little input.^[138] According to Matt Sorum, in 1996, the band had recorded seven songs, with seven more in the writing stages, and intended to release a single album with 10 or 12 songs in spring 1997.^[139] Sorum said that *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere*, the debut album from Slash's band Slash's Snakepit, "could have been a Guns N' Roses album, but Axl didn't think it was good enough".^[139]

left to right: Duff McKagan, Gilby Clarke, Axl Rose, Slash, Dizzy Reed, Matt Sorum (http://www.la-razon.com/la_revista/espectaculos/Roses-MTV-Video-Music-Awards_LRZI_MA20160105_0054_11.jpg)

In May 1994, Gilby Clarke said work on the next Guns N' Roses album had ended.^[141] He described the incomplete album as "not as sophisticated as *Illusion*, but not as wild as *Appetite*."^[139] It was described by McKagan as consisting of "up-tempo rock songs" with "no ballads".^[142] In 2002, Rose said the guitar work Slash had recorded was the "best playing [he's] done at least since *Illusions*."^[143] Rose said the material was scrapped due to the lack of collaboration between band members.^[140] He told *USA Today* in 2012 that he did not write any music "for years" in the mid-1990s because of criticism from Slash, McKagan, and ex-fiancee Stephanie Seymour.^[144]

We still needed the collaboration of the band as a whole to write the best songs. Since none of that happened, that's the reason why that material got scrapped.
—Axl Rose^[140]

In January 1994, Rose inducted Elton John into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and that night performed a duet with Bruce Springsteen on a cover of the Beatles' "Come Together".^[145] It was Rose's final public performance for six years.^[145] Also in 1994, all of the members of the band at the time contributed to Gilby Clarke's debut album, *Pawnshop Guitars*.^[146]

In December 1994, GN'R released a cover of the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil".^[147] The song appeared in the films *Interview with the Vampire* and *Fallen* and was released as a single. *Entertainment Weekly* stated that the 'note-for-note remake works up a decent lather but seems utterly bankrupt'.^[148] It is the final GN'R track to feature Slash on lead guitar, McKagan on bass, and Sorum on drums. The song also featured Rose's childhood friend and Hollywood Rose collaborator Paul "Huge" Tobias on rhythm guitar.^[147] Tobias's presence on the track and in the band created tension; reportedly Slash had 'creative and personal differences' with Tobias.^[149] A 2001 interview revealed Slash told his bandmates in September 1996, "I'm going to confront it. Either Paul goes, or [I go]".^[150]

The music was going in a direction that was completely indulgent to his friend [*Huge*] ... And another factor is this guy that Axl brought in and told us, 'This is our new guitar player' ... There was no democracy there. And that's when Slash really started going, 'Fuck this. What, this is his band now? or something?' ... It was ridiculous. I'd go down there to start rehearsal at 10, and Axl would show up at four or five in the morning. That sort of thing was going on for a couple of years.

— — Duff McKagan^[151]

Gilby Clarke's contract was not renewed and he was gone from the band by 1995.^[147] Slash stated in his book that Rose fired Clarke without consulting anyone, claiming he was a "hired hand".^[152] Clarke was not involved in the recording of 'Sympathy for the Devil': "I knew that that was the ending because nobody told me about it. Officially I was in the band at that time, and they did that song without me."^[153] Clarke mentioned that before the final show of the *Use Your Illusion Tour*, Rose told him "Hey, enjoy your last show".^[153] Clarke later sued the band over the use of his likeness in Guns N' Roses Pinball.^[154]

In 1996, Rose, Slash, McKagan, and former member Izzy Stradlin guested on *Anxious Disease*, the debut album by The Outpatience, featuring GN'R collaborator West Arkeen.^[155]

The recording of "Sympathy for the Devil", coupled with tension between Slash and Rose, led the former to quit the band officially in October 1996.^[156] Rose sent a fax notifying MTV of the departure, and Slash responded: "Axl and I have not been capable of seeing eye to eye on Guns N' Roses for some time. We tried to collaborate, but at this point, I'm no longer in the band."^[157] Slash stated, "Axl's whole visionary style, as far as his input in Guns N' Roses, is completely different from mine. I just like to play guitar, write a good riff, go out there and play, as opposed to presenting an image."^[158]



Guitarist Zakk Wylde played with the band for several weeks and was considered as a potential second guitarist in 1995.

Slash was replaced by Nine Inch Nails touring guitarist Robin Finck in January 1997. He signed a two-year contract with the band in August 1997, making him an official member.^[159] Finck was originally recommended by Matt Sorum to Rose a year earlier as a possible second guitarist to complement Slash.^[150] Slash's departure was followed

shortly thereafter by Matt Sorum in April 1997, who was fired by Rose after getting in an argument about Tobias's inclusion in the band.^[160] Sorum later stated Tobias was the "Yoko Ono of Guns N' Roses".^[150] McKagan was the last of the *Appetite* lineup to leave, resigning as bassist in August 1997.^[161] McKagan had recently become a father and wrote about his decision to leave in his autobiography: "Guns had been paying rent on studios for three years now—from 1994 to 1997—and still did not have a single song. The whole operation was so erratic that it didn't seem to fit with my hopes for parenthood, for stability."^[161] An actual break-up of Guns N' Roses never occurred, as new members were brought in as the old ones left. Rose reportedly purchased the full rights to the Guns N' Roses name in 1997.^{[158][162]} Slash claimed he and bandmates signed over the name under duress: "Axl refused to go onstage one night during the Use Your Illusion tour in 1992 unless the band signed away the name rights to the band. Unfortunately, we signed it. I didn't think he'd go on stage otherwise."^[163] Rose denied the claim, saying "(it) Never happened, all made up, fallacy and fantasy. Not one single solitary thread of truth to it. Had that been the case I would have been cremated years ago legally, could've cleaned me out for the name and damages. It's called under duress with extenuating circumstances."^[163]

Rose auditioned multiple potential members, including Chris Vrenna, Zakk Wylde, Dave Abbruzzese, Michael Bland and Failure drummer Kelli Scott.^{[35][164][165][166][167][168]} *Rolling Stone* reported in April 1997 that the lineup of Guns N' Roses was Rose, McKagan, Tobias, Finck & Vrenna.^[169] Dizzy Reed's roommate and friend Sean Riggs participated with the group as a studio drummer sporadically during these years, receiving writing credits on "Oh My God".^{[170][171]}

Josh Freese was ultimately hired to replace Sorum on drums, joining in the summer of 1997.^[172] After being recommended by Freese, former Replacements bassist Tommy Stinson joined in 1998, replacing McKagan.^[173] By the end of 1998, a new version of Guns N' Roses had emerged: Rose, bassist Tommy Stinson, drummer Josh Freese, lead guitarist Robin Finck, rhythm guitarist Paul Tobias, keyboardist Dizzy Reed, and multi-instrumentalist Chris Pitman.

Geffen released an edited single disc version of the *Illusion* albums in 1998, entitled *Use Your Illusion*.^[174] In November 1999, the label released *Live Era '87–'93*, a collection of live performances from various concerts during the *Appetite for Destruction* and *Use Your Illusion* tours.^[175] Former guitarist Slash described the selection of songs of the album as a "very mutual effort",^[176] further adding "the live album was one of the easiest projects we all worked on. I didn't actually see Axl, but we communicated via the powers that be."^[177]



Tommy Stinson, Chris Pitman, Bryan "Brain" Mantia, Robin Finck & Josh Freese all joined the band in the late '90s.

New lineups and *Chinese Democracy* (1999–2008)

Background of new album

A new Guns N' Roses album had reportedly been in the works since 1994, with Rose the only original member still in the band.^[178] Moby was reported to be producing with Guns N' Roses in 1997, with work that sources described as "sounding different from the sound you know ... definitely electronic influenced."^{[179][180]} Mike Clink, who had previously produced every Guns N' Roses album, was also attached to produce in May 1997.^[159] In April 1998, Moby was replaced by Youth, and the album was still in the writing stages.^[181] In July 1998, journalist Neil Strauss indicated that an 'electronica influenced' album by a new Guns N' Roses lineup was due in 1999.^[182] *Rolling Stone* stated that the label planned for the album to be released in late 1999.^[183] By August 1999, the band had recorded over 30 songs for the album, tentatively titled *2000 Intentions*.^[184] September 1999 saw Youth being replaced by producer Sean Beaven.^[183]

In November 1999, during an interview with Kurt Loder for MTV, Rose said that he had re-recorded *Appetite for Destruction* with the then-new band, apart from two songs which he had replaced with "Patience" and "You Could Be Mine".^[185] During the interview, Rose announced the title of the upcoming album *Chinese Democracy*, stating:

There's a lot of Chinese democracy movements, and it's something that there's a lot of talk about, and it's something that will be nice to see. It could also just be like an ironic statement. I don't know, I just like the sound of it. (The album has) a lot of different sounds. There's some heavy songs, there's a lot of aggressive songs, but they're all in different styles and different sounds. It is truly a melting pot.^[185]

Band manager Doug Goldstein stated in November 1999 that the band had 'almost finished' recording the music, and the album was due out some time in 2000.^[186] Later that month, the band released a new song, the industrial styled "Oh My God", which was included on the soundtrack of the film *End of Days*.^[187] The track featured additional guitar work by Dave Navarro and Gary Sunshine, Rose's personal guitar teacher.^[188] Rose claimed that former members Duff McKagan and Matt Sorum had 'failed to see the potential' of the song and had no interest in recording or playing the piece.^[188]

In August 1999, guitarist Robin Finck departed to rejoin his former band, Nine Inch Nails, on tour.^[189] In March 2000, avant-garde guitarist Brian Carroll, more commonly referred to as Buckethead, joined Guns N' Roses as a replacement for Finck.^{[190][191]} Also in March 2000, drummer Josh Freese left the band, being replaced with Bryan "Brain" Mantia (formerly of Primus).^{[191][192]} Mantia, a childhood friend of Carroll's, had previously worked with Buckethead in several bands, including Praxis. Robin Finck returned to the band in late 2000, to complement Buckethead on lead guitar.^[193] Queen guitarist Brian May and former Queen producer Roy Thomas Baker worked with the band in 2000.^[194] With the album nearing completion in mid-2000, Baker convinced Rose to re-record the entire album, causing further delays.^[195]

Title announcement and touring, tour cancellation and member departures

In an interview with *Rolling Stone* in February 2000, Rose played several songs of the upcoming album to reporters, including "Chinese Democracy", "Catcher in the Rye", "I.R.S.", "The Blues", "There Was a Time" and "Oklahoma".^[135] Rose mentioned that part of the delay of the new album was him 'educating himself about the technology that's come to define rock', stating that "it's like from scratch, learning how to work with something, and not wanting it just to be something you did on a computer."^[135] *Rolling Stone* described the album as "Led Zeppelin's Physical Graffiti remixed by Beck and Trent Reznor".^[135] Rose mentioned that the expense of the record would be negated by the recording sessions yielding multiple albums, including a record that is "more industrial and electronica-influenced than *Chinese Democracy*".^[135] At that point, the album had gone through multiple producers, including Youth, Moby, Mike Clink, Roy Thomas Baker, Eric Caudieux. At the time, Sean Beavan was producing, but Caram Costanzo and Axl Rose became the final credited producers on the album.^{[135][159][183]} The album had been completely re-recorded several times with varying musicians and producers.^[178] In a 2001 interview, Rose described the album as having "all kinds of styles, many influences as blues, mixed in the songs" and said that it was "not industrial".^[196]



Buckethead was the band's lead guitarist from 2000 to 2004, while Richard Fortus joined on rhythm guitar in 2002.

Describing why he continued using the Guns N' Roses name, instead of labeling the upcoming album an 'Axl Rose solo album', Rose stated "It is something I lived by before these guys were in it. And there were other people in Guns n' Roses before them, you know. I contemplated letting go of that, but it doesn't feel right in any way. I am not the person who chose to try to kill it and walked away. It's not an Axl Rose album, even if it's what I wanted it to be. Everybody is putting everything they've got into singing and building. Maybe I'm helping steer it to what it should be built like."^[135] Also in the interview, Rose attributed the breakup of the old lineup to drug addictions and 'an effort from inside the band to destroy him', stating "There was an effort to bring me down. It was a king-of-the-mountain thing," and that he "needed to take control to survive".^[135] Rose also described the dissolution as "a divorce".^[135]


Jim Barber, a former A&R executive with Geffen stated that the new album "reminded me of the best moments of Seventies Pink Floyd or later Led Zeppelin. There's nothing out there right now that has that kind of scope. Axl hasn't spent the last several years struggling to write *Use Your Illusion* over again."^[197]

Eight years after the previous Guns N' Roses concert, the band made a public appearance in January 2001 with two well-received concerts: one in Las Vegas and one at the Rock in Rio Festival in Rio de Janeiro.^[178] The band played both songs from previous albums and songs from then-unreleased *Chinese Democracy*. During the band's Rock in Rio set, Rose made the following comment regarding former members of the band:

I know that many of you are disappointed that some of the people you came to know and love could not be with us here today. Regardless of what you have heard or read, people worked very hard (meaning my former friends) to do everything they could so that I could not be here today. I am as hurt and disappointed as you that unlike Oasis, we could not find a way to all get along.^{[198][199]}

The group played a further two shows in Las Vegas at the end of 2001.^[200] Former guitarist Slash claimed that he tried to attend a show and was turned away at the door by security.^[201] Due to his frustrations with touring, rhythm guitarist Paul Tobias left the band in 2002 and was replaced by Richard Fortus (formerly of The

External image

 Buckethead and Rose performing with Guns N' Roses during the 2002 MTV Video Music

Psychedelic Furs and Love Spit Love).^[202] Fortus is good friends with and had previously collaborated with bassist Tommy Stinson, who recommended him for the position.^[203] Producer Roy Thomas Baker was fired in February 2002.^[204] *Drudge Report* reported in June 2002 that *Chinese Democracy* was scheduled for a September 2, 2002 release.^[205]

Awards. (<http://www.gettyimages.com/event/guns-n-roses-75169580#guns-n-roses-during-2002-mtv-vma-guns-n-roses-at-radio-city-music-in-picture-id109936293>)

The band then played several shows in August 2002, headlining festivals and concerts throughout Asia and Europe, including Pukkelpop, Summer Sonic Festival, and The Carling Weekend.^{[206][207]} At the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards on August 29, 2002, Guns N' Roses closed the show in a previously unannounced performance, playing "Welcome to the Jungle", "Madagascar", and "Paradise City".^{[178][208]}

In November 2002, the band's first North American tour since 1993 was organized to support *Chinese Democracy*, with CKY and Mix Master Mike joining. However, the opening show in Vancouver was canceled by the venue when Rose failed to turn up.^[209] According to Guns' management, "Axl's flight from L.A. had been delayed by mechanical troubles".^[209] A riot ensued.^[209] This tour was met with mixed results. Some concerts did not sell well, while shows in larger markets such as New York City sold out in minutes.^[210] Due to a second riot by fans in Philadelphia when the band failed to show up again, tour promoter Clear Channel canceled the remainder of the tour.^{[209][211]} Rose later mentioned in 2006, "There are reasons that I have not spoken more about [cancelled shows in Vancouver and Philadelphia] that have been extremely complicated and are not legally resolved behind the scenes to this day and could have possibly jeopardized the future of Guns N' Roses."^[212] Rose then apologized to the city of Philadelphia when playing there in 2012, adding "I'm not saying I'm innocent".^[213]

The band went on hiatus in 2003. While on hiatus on September 1, 2004, baseball player Mike Piazza leaked a previously unheard track, "I.R.S." on the Eddie Trunk radio show.^[214] The band management heard about the nationwide leak, and obtained a cease and desist order for all stations that had a copy of the track. The band's hiatus continued until it was scheduled to play at Rock in Rio Lisboa in May 2004.^[215] However, Buckethead left the band in March of that year, causing the band to cancel.^{[216][217]} Buckethead reportedly left the band because of the "inability to complete an album or tour", according to his manager.^[217] Rose claimed "the band has been put in an untenable position by guitarist Buckethead and his untimely departure. During his tenure with the band, Buckethead has been inconsistent and erratic in both his behavior and commitment, despite being under contract, creating uncertainty and confusion and making it virtually impossible to move forward with recording, rehearsals and live plans with confidence. His transient lifestyle has made it impossible for even his closest friends to have nearly any form of communication with him whatsoever."^[216]

Guns N' Roses tour canceled. Typical. And freakishly expected. Haha. Really bad idea. I wouldn't suggest they come back.

—Opening band CKY^[211]

Greatest Hits and label conflict, lawsuits

That same month, Geffen released Guns N' Roses' *Greatest Hits*, since Rose had failed to deliver a new studio album in more than ten years.^{[178][218]} Slash and McKagan joined Rose in suing Geffen to stop the release of the album, which was compiled without authorization from any current or former band members.^{[219][220]} The lawsuit was thrown out and the album went triple platinum in the US, eventually going on to be the third longest charting album in the Nielsen SoundScan era.^{[218][221]} McKagan and Slash also joined Rose in an unsuccessful effort to prevent the release of *The Roots of Guns N' Roses*.^[222]

By 2005, Geffen had taken *Chinese Democracy* off of its release schedule and pulled funding, stating "Having exceeded all budgeted and approved recording costs by millions of dollars, it is Mr. Rose's obligation to fund and complete the album, not Geffen's."^[178] Around then, manager Merck Mercuriadis stated that "The 'Chinese Democracy' album is very close to being completed".^[178] According to a 2005 report by *The New York Times*, Rose had allegedly spent \$13 million in the studio by that point.^{[178][223]} Mercuriadis rejected the budget claims made by the *New York Times* article and claimed that the newspaper's sources had not been involved with the project for "six to nine years".^[224] The \$13 million makes the album the most expensive rock album ever produced.^{[225][226][227]}

In February 2006, demos of the songs "Better", "Catcher in the Rye", "I.R.S.", and "There Was a Time" were leaked on to the Internet through a Guns N' Roses fan site.^{[228][229]} The band's management requested that all links to the MP3 files and all lyrics to the songs be removed from forums and websites.^[230] Despite this, radio stations began adding "I.R.S." to playlists, and the song reached No. 49 on the Radio & Records Active Rock National Airplay chart in the final week of February.^[231]

In August 2006, Slash and McKagan sued Rose over Guns N' Roses publishing and songwriting credits, which Rose's lawyer claimed were due to a 'clerical error' while changing publishers.^{[178][232][233]}

Lineup changes and resuming tour



Izzy Stradlin on stage with Guns N' Roses in 2006

After a recommendation by guitar virtuoso Joe Satriani, guitarist Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal was contacted by keyboardist Chris Pitman in 2004.^[234] After sending demos and jamming with the band, Thal officially joined Guns N' Roses in 2006, replacing Buckethead.^{[235][236]} Thal made his live debut with the band at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City on May 12, 2006, the band's first live show in over three years.^[237]

Five warm-up shows before a North American tour were held in September 2006.^[238] The tour officially commenced on October 24 in Miami.^[239] Drummer Frank Ferrer replaced Bryan Mantia, who took a leave of absence to be with his wife and newborn child.^[240] Ferrer had previously worked with Richard Fortus in the Psychedelic Furs and Love Spit Love (and had been a member of several other bands, including The Beautiful). Coinciding with the tour, the song "Better" was featured in an internet advertisement for Harley-Davidson in October 2006.^[239] Keyboardist Dizzy Reed stated that the release was an accident, with two versions being made—one

'experimental edit' featuring a demo of "Better" and one with "Paradise City".^[241] The ad with Better was mislabeled and inadvertently uploaded online for a day before being replaced by the intended ad with Paradise City.^[241] That same month, Rolling Stone published an article revealing that Andy Wallace would be mixing the final album.^[242]

In November 2006 shows in Portland, Maine, were cancelled, with the band claiming it was "due to limitations imposed by local fire marshals".^[243] Rose later apologized in a statement, stating "We have chosen to take the public heat for these events in order to have another shot at the future today with a new album."^[212]

In December 2006, Rose released an open letter to fans announcing that Merck Mercuriadis had been fired as the band's manager.^[244] He revealed that the last four dates of the North American tour would be cut so the band could work on post-production for *Chinese Democracy*.^[244] He also set a tentative release date for the album for the first time since the album's announcement: March 6, 2007.^[244]

On February 23, 2007, Del James announced that the recording stage of *Chinese Democracy* was finished, and the band had now moved onto mixing the album, mentioning "After some delays and scheduling difficulties, things appear to be moving along."^[245] However, this proved that March 6 release date would be impossible to achieve, and the album once again had no scheduled release date.^{[246][247]} In a December 2007 interview, Sebastian Bach claimed Rose had planned to have the album released by Christmas 2007: "I know Axl was very serious about putting something out before Christmas."^[248] He was talking to me about it. He was talking about finishing liner notes."^[248] Bach also said that *Chinese Democracy*'s delay might be because of business problems: "I think there's a lot of business shit that goes on with him. It's just not as easy. It's a little more complicated than people think."^[248]

Also in February 2007, the 'final' version of "Better" leaked online to positive reviews.^{[246][249]} On May 4, 2007, three more tracks leaked from *Chinese Democracy*; an updated version of "I.R.S.", "The Blues" and the title track.^{[246][250]} All three tracks had previously been played live. Guns N' Roses embarked on the 2007 leg of the Chinese Democracy World Tour in Mexico in June, followed by dates in Australia and Japan.^[251] The songs "Nice Boys" and "Don't Cry" (appearing as an instrumental Bumblefoot

solo) were played for the first time since the *Use Your Illusion Tour*. The tour ended on the twentieth anniversary of *Appetite for Destruction*'s release date, in *Osaka*.^[252] During this tour, the band featured vocalist Axl Rose, Robin Finck, Ron Thal and Richard Fortus on guitars, Tommy Stinson on bass, Dizzy Reed and Chris Pitman on keyboards and Frank Ferrer on drums.

Album release and promotion



Drummer Frank Ferrer joined the band in 2006.

Rumors arose that *Chinese Democracy* had been handed over to Geffen Records, but had been delayed because the label and Rose could not agree on the marketing of the album in early 2008.^[253] Eddie Trunk also claimed Geffen might have the album: "I hear the new GNR CD is actually done, but the delay in release is not the bands [*sic*] issues but the label. There is so much money tied up in this record that in todays [*sic*] business it will be virtually impossible to be profitable, meaning the label might want to sell it off but can not [*sic*] find a buyer since nobody buys CDs anymore. Problem might not be Axl this time around and might keep this CD in limbo for more years to come. Hopefully it gets resolved."^[254] However, in a February 2008 interview with *Classic Rock Magazine*, Rose's manager, Beta Lebeis, debunked Trunk's suggestion and stated the band is "in negotiations" with the record label, and the album had been finished since Christmas 2007.^[255]

On March 26, 2008, Dr Pepper announced a plan to give everyone in America – except the band's former guitarists *Slash* and *Buckethead* – a free can of Dr Pepper if the band released *Chinese Democracy* before the end of 2008.^{[256][257][258]} Rose stated he was "surprised and very happy" about the announcement, adding, "As some of Buckethead's performances are on our album, I'll share my Dr Pepper with him."^{[259][260][261]} With the announcement from Guns N' Roses regarding a release date in November, Tony Jacobs, Dr Pepper's Vice President of Marketing for Dr. Pepper, announced a free soda coupon campaign for 24 hours on Sunday, November 23, 2008.^[262] However, due to "heavy volume" on the server throughout the entire day, it was impossible to submit for a free coupon.^[263]

On March 27, 2008, the day after Dr Pepper's announcement, the band members announced that they had hired a new management team, headed by *Irving Azoff* and *Andy Gould*.^[264] The band later condemned Dr. Pepper for the failed promotion.^[265] In a letter to Dr Pepper, Rose's lawyer Alan Gutman said "The redemption scheme your company clumsily implemented for this offer was an unmitigated disaster which defrauded consumers and, in the eyes of vocal fans, ruined *Chinese Democracy*'s release."^[266] Rose's lawyer also demanded that the company make a full-page apology that would appear in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*.^{[267][268]} In a 2009 interview, Rose stated he specifically told his lawyers it was a non-issue and was taken off-guard by their actions, believing they should be focused on the record release.^[269]



Guns N' Roses "Chinese Democracy" (2008)

Sample of "Chinese Democracy" from *Chinese Democracy*, the first single released by Guns N' Roses since 1999.

Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).

Amidst industry rumors in April 2008 that a release was coming soon, nine tracks purported to be from *Chinese Democracy* were leaked to a website on June 19, 2008, but were quickly removed due to a cease-and-desist letter from the band's label.^{[270][271]} Six of the leaked tracks had surfaced previously in some form, while three were new. The leaked songs were more fleshed out than previously heard tracks.^{[271][272]} On July 14, 2008, *Harmonix*, in conjunction with *MTV Games*, officially announced the release of a new song from *Chinese Democracy*, called "*Shackler's Revenge*", through the new game *Rock Band 2*.^[273] The entire album was eventually added to the game as *DLC* in April 2009.^[274] The song "If the World" debuted October 10, 2008, playing in the end credits of the *Ridley Scott* film *Body of Lies*.^[275]

In late August, speculation about the impending release of the album resurfaced, further fueled by separate reports from both *Rolling Stone* and *Billboard* about a November 25 release date as a Best Buy exclusive.^{[276][277]} This was finally confirmed October 22 when band management, Best Buy, and Interscope Geffen A&M Records officially issued a joint press release confirming the much anticipated release of the album in the US on November 23 as a Best Buy exclusive.^{[278][279]} Several days before its official release, the band streamed the entire *Chinese Democracy* album on the group's Myspace page.^{[280][281][282]} The album was streamed over three million times, breaking the Myspace record for most streamed album ever.^[283]

Chinese Democracy, the band's sixth studio album and its first since 1993's *"The Spaghetti Incident?"*, was released on November 22, 2008, in Europe and Australia, in North America on November 23, 2008, and in the United Kingdom on November 24, 2008.^[276] The album had an estimated \$14 million in production costs, making it the most expensive rock album to ever be produced in music history.^{[225][226][227]} It debuted at No. 3 on the *Billboard* 200 but undersold industry expectations, despite generally positive critical reception.^[284]

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction and *Appetite for Democracy* (2009–2014)



DJ Ashba was the band's lead guitarist from 2009 to 2015, and Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal was the band's lead guitarist from 2006 to 2014.

In an MTV phone interview with Kurt Loder in 1999, Rose said he and the then-new band had recorded enough material for a double album.^[185] In an informal chat with *Rolling Stone* magazine in February 2006, Rose stated the band had 32 songs in the works.^[285] While appearing on various fan message boards in December 2008, Rose stated several working titles of songs for a possible future album. Among the working titles were: "Elvis Presley and the Monster of Soul" ("Soul Monster", formerly known as "Leave Me Alone"), "Atlas Shrugged", "Seven", "The General", "Thyme", "Ides of March", "Berlin" (formerly "Oklahoma"), "Zodiac", "Quick Song", and "Down by the Ocean" (co-written by original member Izzy Stradlin).^[286] During the chat, he mentioned the bridge of "Soul Monster" as the band's "most Black Sabbath" moment, and referred to it as "the meanest section of anything I've sung to date."^[269] In a 2007 interview, Rose's close friend Sebastian Bach stated "The General" had a "heavy" sound with "screaming vocals" and also said it was the sequel to the 1991 classic ballad "Estranged" from the album *Use Your Illusion II*.^[287] Bach also remarked that *Chinese Democracy* would be the first installment in a trilogy of new albums, and that

Rose had told him the third, as yet untitled, album had been slated for 2012, although the year ended without seeing a release past *Chinese Democracy*.^[287] The initial plan for *Chinese Democracy* in 2001 was to record two albums, release *Chinese Democracy*, tour for a year or two, then release the second album without having to return to the studio.^[288]

Former drummer Bryan Mantia mentioned working on a 'club remix' of "Shackler's Revenge", stating that Rose planned to put out a remix album of songs from *Chinese Democracy*.^[240] Guitarist DJ Ashba has said that the next album is being discussed, stating that the band "has been throwing around a bunch of ideas" and joked that the next album "won't take as long" to release.^[289] On April 20, 2011, Ashba said in an interview at the *Revolver* Golden Gods Awards that Guns N' Roses have been "working on new songs every day".^[290] In an interview with Triple M Melbourne's *The Hot Breakfast*, Ashba talked about songs Rose has written, stating: "Axl has a lot of great songs up his sleeve. He probably has three albums worth of stuff recorded. The stuff I've heard ... I've been up in his hotel room many nights and he just sits down at the piano and plays. I'm like 'this is amazing, people have to hear this song' and he's like 'ah, this is something I'm tinkering on'."^[291]

On February 6, 2009, Rose gave his first interview in nine years when he sat down with *Billboard's* Jonathan Cohen.^[292] Rose said that there was no chance that he would ever agree with a reunion with Slash:

What's clear is that one of the two of us will die before a reunion and however sad, ugly or unfortunate anyone views it, it is how it is. Those decisions were made a long time ago and reiterated year after year by one man.^[292]



Guns N' Roses playing the Sofia Rocks Fest 2012 in Bulgaria.

Rose was, however, open to working again with Stradlin and McKagan (both of whom he has worked with since the interview took place):

I could see doing a song or so on the side with Izzy or having him out [on tour] again. I'm not so comfortable with doing anything having more than one of the alumni. Maybe something with Duff, but that's it, and not something I'd have to really get down into, as I'd get left with sorting it out and then blamed on top of it. So, no, not me.^[292]

In early March 2009, industry insiders speculated Guns N' Roses would launch a summer stadium tour, which eventually would become the *Chinese Democracy World Tour 2009/2010*.^[293] Later that month, the band announced that DJ Ashba would be the new lead guitarist, replacing a departing Robin Finck, who rejoined Nine Inch Nails.^{[294][295][296]} Ashba had previously played with former drummer Steven Adler in BulletBoys in 1998.^{[297][298]}

In June 2009, it was reported that manager Irving Azoff had been 'fired, then re-hired, then fired'.^[299] A year later, Azoff's company Front Line Management sued Rose, claiming he "violated an oral agreement to pay 15% of earnings, or nearly \$2 million, from a lucrative concert tour", seeking \$1.87 million in unpaid fees.^{[300][301][302]} Rose filed a \$5 million counter-lawsuit against Azoff, saying that Azoff sabotaged sales of Guns N' Roses' comeback album and lied about a potential "super tour" with Van Halen, a band managed by Azoff, as part of a plan to force Rose to reunite with his estranged former band members.^[303] Rose said in his suit that Azoff failed to promote his 2008 album, *Chinese Democracy*, and deliberately mishandled concert dates, "forcing Rose into a position where he would have no choice but to reunite with the original members of Guns N' Roses for a reunion tour."^{[303][304]} Rose claimed that Azoff "violated the consent decree by coercing and bullying artists to do what he wants" and that "Upon realizing that he couldn't bully Rose and accomplish his scheme, Azoff resigned and abandoned Guns N' Roses on the eve of a major tour, filing suit for commissions he didn't earn and had no right to receive."^[302] The lawsuit was settled "to the mutual satisfaction of the parties" in 2011.^{[305][306]} Several years later, Guns N' Roses' management, led by Rose's former personal assistant Beta Lebeis and her family, stated that previous tensions led to an ultimatum of "no more managers".^[307]

Guns N' Roses headlined the Friday night at Reading Festival 2010 and closed Leeds Festival two days later.^[308] Guns N' Roses was 58 minutes late coming on to the stage, and because of a curfew issued by Reading Council the band's set ended at midnight.^[309] The band was therefore not able to complete its set, but nevertheless attempted to play "Paradise City" without amplification while the audience sang along.^[310] Rose orchestrated fan frustration toward the organizers, telling fans that the group would not play at the Leeds Festival.^[311] However, two days later the band played the final night of the Leeds Festival, coming onto stage 30 minutes late, and cutting part of the encore, with Rose stating to the crowd, "We come here to play for you but the cops and the promoters wanna fuck us in the ass. We would like to play a few more songs for you but we'll just play one."^[312] During a concert on September 1, in Dublin, the band was over an hour late arriving on stage.^[313] Rose stopped the band in the middle of the second song, "Welcome to the Jungle", after multiple bottles were thrown on stage, warning the crowd "One more bottle and we go home. It's up to you. We would like to stay. We want to stay. We want to have some fun."^[313] After another bottle was thrown, the band left the stage during the fourth song of the set.^[314] The band returned to the stage an hour later to finish the show.^{[315][316]}



Guns N' Roses in Bangalore in 2012. From left to right, Richard Fortus, Axl Rose, Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal, DJ Ashba and Tommy Stinson

Former bassist Duff McKagan joined the band on stage for the first time since leaving the band on October 14, 2010 at The O2 Arena, in London, England. He performed four songs with the group: "You Could Be Mine", "Nice Boys", "Knockin' on Heaven's Door", and "Patience".^{[317][318][319]} The appearance was said to be a spur-of-the-moment decision, as he and Rose happened to be staying in the same hotel.^[320] Rose told the audience, "There was this guy at the end of my hallway playing all this loud music and shit. What the fuck? Oh — it's Duff!".^[320] McKagan later joined Guns N' Roses on part of its tour for two Seattle shows in December 2011, as well as having his band Loaded open for Guns N' Roses.^[321]

Guns N' Roses performed at Rock in Rio 4 on October 2, 2011 during heavy rain,^[322] playing "Estranged" for the first time since 1993.^[323] Guitarist Bumblefoot stated that due to the conditions, it was the "worst concert he's ever been a part of".^[324] Two months later, during a performance in Nashville, TN "Civil War" also made a return after an eighteen-year absence.^[325] On November 10, 2011, Rose gave his first TV interview in years to Eddie Trunk, Don Jamieson and Jim Florentine of *That Metal Show*, discussing his whole career and the band's future.^[326] Izzy Stradlin once again joined the band for a surprise performance at a wedding in Saint-Tropez, France in July 2012.^[327] Also in July 2012, the band toured Israel for the first time since 1992.^[328] *NME* reported that year that the band's tour security said they had been instructed by Guns N' Roses' management that anyone wearing a Slash T-shirt not be allowed into the tour venue.^[329]

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction

On December 7, 2011, it was announced that the classic Guns N' Roses lineup was to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with several other acts, including the Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Faces.^{[330][331]} Commenting on his Twitter, Rose stated "I'd like to thank the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame and our fans. This is your victory".^[332] Commenting on the induction during his *That Metal Show* interview he said "I don't know what it means in terms of me with the old band and the old lineup,"... "If we were to be invited, I don't know what they would ask of me. It's up in the air."^[333] Slash also commented, saying, "Thanks for all the R&RHF mentions, It's quite an honor to be inducted. Cheers! Iii|;)" ^[334] He went on to say, "I have no idea how that's supposed to go. If Axl, Duff, Izzy and myself start communicating, it could go one way. If we don't, God knows."^[334] In an interview, Dizzy Reed supported the hypothesis of the classic lineup reunited in the Hall of Fame, saying, "I know that all the original band is going to be there. I don't know exactly what's going to go down. It's one of those things I'm sure will all come together and be really cool. Honestly, we haven't spoken about it. I don't know when or why or how to bring it up."^[335]



The members of Guns N' Roses inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Top row: Axl Rose, Duff McKagan, Dizzy Reed. Bottom Row: Slash, Matt Sorum, Steven Adler, Izzy Stradlin.

On April 11, 2012, Rose released an open letter to "The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Guns N' Roses Fans and Whom It May Concern", saying he would not be attending the induction. Rose stated, "I respectfully decline my induction as a member of Guns N' Roses to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" and called it a "complicated and awkward situation".^{[336][337]} After the ceremony, Rose released a statement on the band's Facebook page apologizing to the city of Cleveland (where the ceremony took place) and detailing reasons why he did not attend, stating "I still don't exactly know or understand what the Hall is or how or why it makes money, where the money goes, who chooses the voters and why anyone [on] this board decides who, out of all the artists in the world that have contributed to this genre, [is] officially "rock" enough to be in the Hall?"^{[338][339]}

On April 14, 2012, former Guns N' Roses members Slash, Duff McKagan, Gilby Clarke, Steven Adler and Matt Sorum all reunited at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.^[340] The group performed "Mr. Brownstone", "Sweet Child o' Mine", and "Paradise City" with Alter Bridge and Slash's band vocalist Myles Kennedy in Rose's absence.^{[341][342]} Slash mentioned in an interview that "All things considered, I don't think any of us wanted to be a part of it initially, didn't think any of us were going to go. It was a thorn in everybody's—well, at least a thorn in my side—because I was busy doing other stuff. When it finally came down to the wire at the very, very, very last-minute—I'm talking about the 11 hours and 30 seconds mark—Axl had pulled out."^[343] In the same interview, Slash mentioned the prospects of a reunion, stating "It's not even something I like to dwell on. I don't even like to make comments because you end up with quotes that sometimes exacerbate the issue. I've got other things going on. I'm very, very proud—endlessly proud—of everything the band stood for and everything that's gone on with it."^[343] Slash then stated in a July 2012 interview that "[the classic lineup] will 'never reunite'".^[344] In a later interview, former drummer Steven Adler stated that Matt Sorum would not take part in a potential reunion unless Adler was involved.^[345] Duff McKagan said in 2015, "[A reunion] could happen, and it could not. And I think it would be wonderful, one day, if we reconciled, first and foremost. That alone would be cool."^[346]

Up Close and Personal and Appetite for Democracy tours



Guns N' Roses performing at Nottingham Arena, Nottingham, UK, in May 2012. From left to right, Richard Fortus, Axl Rose, DJ Ashba.

In early 2012, the band announced shows in the United States and Europe, titled the Up Close and Personal Tour.^[347] The shows themselves varied considerably in comparison to the previous Chinese Democracy Tour. All of the North American shows took place in smaller-scale clubs, rather than a large arena or stadium.^{[348][349][350]} All pyrotechnics were removed from the shows.^[350] The European leg of the tour began approximately one month after the band's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

On August 13, 2012, the band announced a residency at The Joint in Las Vegas entitled "Appetite for Democracy", celebrating the 25th anniversary of the band's debut album, *Appetite for Destruction*, and the fourth anniversary of the album *Chinese Democracy*.^{[351][352]} On November 21, 2012, the band's performance in Vegas was taped in 3D, and was screened across theaters in 2014 before being released as *Appetite for Democracy 3D* on July 1, 2014.^{[353][354][355]} In October 2012,

Guns N' Roses performed an acoustic set at Neil Young's Bridge School Benefit show.^[356] The performance was widely panned by critics, and Rose claimed an onset of strep throat hampered his vocals.^{[357][358][359][360]} The band launched a South American tour in early 2014, including playing in Brazil and Portugal.^[361] For several shows, former bassist Duff McKagan rejoined the band to fill in for Stinson, who had previous commitments to touring with The Replacements.^[362] The group headlined the Revolver Golden Gods awards show, with McKagan on bass, on April 24, 2014. During the ceremony, Rose was awarded the Ronnie James Dio lifetime achievement award.^{[363][364]} After the show, Fortus reiterated the band was working on material and mentioned the possibility of releasing new music within the next year.^[365]

From May 21 to June 7, 2014, the band returned to Las Vegas for its second residency at The Joint, titled *No Trickery! An Evening of Destruction*.^[366]

Progress on a follow up to *Chinese Democracy*

Guitarist DJ Ashba discussed a potential follow up to *Chinese Democracy* in a 2012 interview, stating "I've written and demoed up probably about 12 songs, I think. And some of them [Axl] has heard, some of them he hasn't yet. But I think when we get a little bit of time off, we're gonna hopefully all get together and piece together what we think is gonna be the next best thing."^[367] Richard Fortus mentioned the band heading to the studio to work on the album, hoping it would be completed by the end of 2012.^[368] In October 2012, Rose mentioned that the follow-up to *Chinese Democracy* would not take as long to be released, stating, "All the guys are writing, and we recorded a lot of songs over the years. We'll figure out what we feel best about. *Chinese* was done in piecemeal with one person here and one there at different times."^[144]

In August 2013, a new song titled "Going Down" was leaked online.^[369] The track features bassist Tommy Stinson on lead vocals, with Rose providing backing vocals.^[369] Bumblefoot confirmed the song to be legitimate on his Twitter.^[370] *Spin* described it as "a country-tinged, mid-tempo lighter-raiser with lyrics about how 'you've got nothin' good to say / Keep your mouth shut.'"^[369]

In an interview in June 2014, Rose commented on upcoming plans:

We recorded a lot of things before *Chinese* was out. We've worked more on some of those things and we've written a few new things. But basically, we have what I call kind of the second half of *Chinese*. That's already recorded. And then we have a remix album made of the songs from *Chinese*. That's been done for a while, too. But after Vegas, we're going to start looking very seriously at what we're doing in that regard.^[371]

Reed mentioned that the next album was 'close to being done' in July 2014, adding it was "just a matter of picking out which songs will be on it" and that the band had a "shitload of songs, enough to make up another record or two".^[372] Later that month, Fortus discussed the band working on new material and taking a break from touring.^[373] A year later, Fortus discussed a potential 2016 tour and mentioned that the next album "should be out" by then.^[374] Reed responded by saying "When will it come out? We just don't know yet. Only Axl knows, and he's very secretive. Be patient."^[375]

Slash and McKagan rejoin, tour, and future (2015–present)

On July 27, 2015, guitarist DJ Ashba left the band, citing his commitments to his family and other band, *Sixx:A.M.*^{[376][377]} Ashba released a statement saying "I have reached a point in my life where I feel it's time to dedicate myself to my band Sixx:A.M., my adoring wife and family, and to the many new adventures that the future holds for me."^[378] Several days later, music journalist Gary Graff reported that a 'confirmed source within the band' had told him that Ron Thal was no longer in Guns N' Roses and had left after the 2014 tour. No official announcement from Thal or the band was made regarding his status.^[379] Tommy Stinson then left the band, citing personal reasons keeping him unable to tour.^[380] Frank Ferrer clarified the status of the band in mid-2015, saying "Guns still exist ... [They have] a lot of moving parts, and there's a lot of things in the works ... everything is moving forward."^[381]

On December 29, 2015, several days after a Guns N' Roses-related teaser was released to movie theaters, *Billboard* reported that Slash was set to rejoin the band and a "reunited" lineup will headline *Coachella* 2016.^{[382][383]} Rose was set to appear on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* the following week to talk about the future of the band, but his appearance was cancelled due to "unforeseen



Guns N' Roses in 2010. From left to right: Dizzy Reed, Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal, Richard Fortus, Axl Rose, DJ Ashba, Chris Pitman, and Tommy Stinson. Drummer Frank Ferrer is not pictured.



Keyboardist Melissa Reese joined the band in 2016.

circumstances".^{[384][385]} Guns N' Roses was officially announced as the headliner of Coachella on January 4, 2016, with KROQ reporting Slash and Duff McKagan were rejoining the band.^{[386][387][388]} The Coachella festival confirmed via press release that McKagan and Slash were rejoining.^[389]

Rose discussed Slash and McKagan rejoining in a June 2016 interview, stating "It was always looked at as a possibility, but it never seemed right or felt right". During the interview, Rose also reiterated his intention to release new Guns N' Roses music in the future.^{[390][391]} Slash later commented on the tour, telling Aerosmith's Joey Kramer in an interview with WZLX that "We all were pretty positive (the reunion) would never happen, so it's still sort of blowing our minds. ... But everybody's really getting along great and I think everybody's come a long way, and it's all cool."^[392] Guitarist Richard Fortus discussed the band's plan to make new music in a July 2017 interview, stating that members had been recording individual and collaborative ideas but have yet to head to the studio as a band.^[393]

Not In This Lifetime... Tour

On March 25, 2016, the band announced 21 cities as part of a North American tour, dubbed the Not in This Lifetime... Tour.^[394] The tour's name is a reference to a 2012 interview in which Rose, when asked about when a potential reunion would happen, responded "not in this lifetime".^[395] A previously unannounced warmup gig at the Troubadour in Los Angeles took place on April 1, 2016.^{[396][397]} Melissa Reese, who has previously worked with former drummer Bryan Mantia on several projects, replaced Chris Pitman as the second keyboardist.^{[398][124]} During the show at the Troubadour, Rose fell off a monitor and broke his foot.^{[399][400]} Rose was given Dave Grohl's customized throne that Grohl had used to perform when he broke his leg at a concert.^[401]



Both bassist Duff McKagan (left) and guitarist Slash (right) returned to the band in 2016.

The band's first scheduled concerts with Slash and McKagan took place at the newly opened T-Mobile Arena on April 8 and 9, 2016.^{[402][403]} At the performance at the first weekend of Coachella, AC/DC guitarist Angus Young joined the band on stage (Rose was set to join AC/DC as a touring vocalist).^{[404][405]} During the band's show of July 6, 2016, in Cincinnati, former drummer Steven Adler joined the band on drums for "Out ta Get Me" and "My Michelle".^[406] It was the first time since 1990 that Adler performed with the group.^[407] Adler was originally going to take part in the April 1 show at the Troubadour, but had to pull out after having back surgery.^[408] Adler would later join the band at shows in Nashville,^[409] Los Angeles,^[410] and Buenos Aires.^[411] The tour featured additional guest performers, including Sebastian Bach, more appearances by Angus Young, Angry Anderson, P!nk, Billy Gibbons and Dave Grohl.^{[412][413][414][415][416][417][418][419][420]}

Additional legs of the tour were added for Latin America, Asia and Oceania through 2017.^{[421][422]} Later on, a second North American leg was added for 2017.^[423] A 2018 European leg was added in November 2017.^[424]

In November 2017, Guns N' Roses was announced as the headline act at the UK Download Festival in June 2018.^{[425][426]} In addition, they won Top Tour/Top Draw at the 2017 Billboard Touring Awards.^[427] They were nominated for Top Touring artist and Top Rock Tour, as well as Top Duo/Group at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards.^[428] The next year, they were nominated again for Top Rock Tour and Top Touring artist.^[429] They are also set to headline the 2018 Graspop Metal Meeting, alongside Iron Maiden and Marilyn Manson.^{[430][431]}

The tour so far has been a financial success, grossing over \$480,000,000 by December 2017 and currently listed as the fourth highest-grossing concert tour of all-time.^{[432][433][434][435]}



Guns N' Roses playing in London in 2017. From left to right, Richard Fortus, Duff McKagan, Slash, Axl Rose, Dizzy Reed, Frank Ferrer, Melissa Reese

***Appetite for Destruction* remaster**

On April 30, 2018, billboards in several large cities, as well as a website (GNR.FM), were spotted with the tagline "Destruction Is Coming".^[436] The website was updated with a countdown clock to May 4, 2018, and a snippet of the song "Shadow of Your Love" playing.^[437] Journalist Mitch Lafon stated the campaign was for a deluxe edition of *Appetite for Destruction*.^[438] A video announcement was inadvertently released a day early, detailing the "Appetite for Destruction: Locked N' Loaded" edition. The box set includes 73 songs on four CDs (49 of which were previously unreleased) and seven 12-inch 180-gram LPs. It includes remastered versions of *Appetite*, *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide*, an EP of B-sides, as well as 25 recordings from the group's 1986 Sound City Studios sessions produced by Manny Charlton, and two previously unreleased tracks from the group's sessions with Mike Clink. In addition to the music, the set includes a 96-page book with unreleased photos from Rose's personal archive, 12 lithographs visualizing each song on the album, and assorted replica memorabilia.^[439] "Shadow of Your Love" was released as a single on May 4, 2018, the band's first single in almost a decade.^{[440][441]} To promote the release, a previously unseen music video for "It's So Easy" was released on Apple Music,^[442] as well as several promotional singles: "Welcome to the Jungle (1986 Sound City Session)",^[443] "Move to the City (1988 Acoustic Version)"^[444] and "November Rain (Piano Version, 1986 Sound City Session)".^[445]

The box set was released on June 29, 2018 to universal critical acclaim.^[446]

Legacy, style, influence, and criticism

Guns N' Roses signed with a major record label within eight months of the band's inception, and topped national sales charts weeks after garnering late hours airplay on MTV. *Appetite for Destruction* is the highest-selling debut album of all time in the United States.^{[47][447]} Peers of the band in the music industry often spoke highly of the band. Joe Perry stated that the band was the first group to remind him of Led Zeppelin.^[448] Ozzy Osbourne stated that Guns N' Roses could have been "the next Rolling Stones" if the classic lineup stayed together.^[449] Country musician Steve Earle stated in 1989 that "Guns N' Roses are what every L.A. band pretends to be".^[34]

The music of Guns N' Roses is a fusion of punk rock,^{[450][451][452]} blues rock,^[453] heavy metal,^[454] hard rock,^{[455][456][457]} and hair metal.^{[458][459]} The *Illusions* albums saw the band branching out into art rock, while "*The Spaghetti Incident?*" saw the group blend hard rock with punk rock.^{[460][461]} Since the group's 1999 revival, the band has retained hard rock features while also experimenting with industrial rock and electronic rock.^{[462][463]} In the 1990s, the band integrated keyed instruments (played by either Rose or Reed, and accompanied on tour by Teddy Andreadis) into the band, and for roughly half of the *Use Your Illusion* tour, added a horn section to the stage.^[9]

A heavy influence on both the image and sound of Guns N' Roses was the Finnish band Hanoi Rocks (singer Michael Monroe and Rose have collaborated on various occasions).^[9] Rose has stated that the band was massively inspired by groups like Queen,^[464] AC/DC,^[465] The Rolling Stones,^{[466][467]} Aerosmith,^[467] and Rose Tattoo,^{[468][469]} and that the sound of *Appetite for Destruction* was influenced by AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Cheap Trick, Aerosmith, Van Halen, the New York Dolls, and Hanoi Rocks.^[470] The band was also influenced by the likes of T. Rex^[471] and the Sex Pistols.^[472] Rose's orchestral-style songwriting on the *Illusion* albums was influenced by the Electric Light Orchestra, Elton John, and Queen, particularly their album *Queen II*.^[473] Rose cited the influence of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" in recording the title track of *Chinese Democracy*.^[474] Critics noted influences of Queen, Wings and Andrew Lloyd Webber on some songs on *Chinese Democracy*.^{[462][475][476][477]}



Guns N' Roses's early look and sound was heavily influenced by Finnish band Hanoi Rocks.

Guns N' Roses has influenced many modern rock bands such as Fall Out Boy,^[478] Avenged Sevenfold,^{[479][480]} Mother Love Bone,^[481] Buckcherry,^[482] Hinder,^{[483][484]} Manic Street Preachers,^[485] Nickelback,^[486] Bullet for My Valentine,^[487] and Black Label Society.^[488]

In 2002, *Q* magazine named Guns N' Roses in its list of the "50 Bands to See Before You Die".^{[490][491]} The television network VH1 ranked Guns N' Roses ninth in its "100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock" special,^[492] and also 32nd on its "100 Greatest Artists of All Time".^[493] *Appetite for Destruction* was ranked 62nd greatest album of all time in *Rolling Stone* magazine's special issue "The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time".^[494] In 2004, *Rolling Stone* ranked Guns N' Roses No. 92 on its list of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time".^[489] "Paradise City" has also been voted 9th-best "Best Hard Rock Song" out of 100 candidates by VH1.^[495]

Guns N' Roses was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 14, 2012 in its first year of eligibility.^[496] The group is one of the world's best-selling bands of all time, having sold more than 100 million records worldwide,^[497] including shipments of 45 million in the United States.^[498] The U.S. release of the PlayStation game *Mega Man X5* had the names of the game's bosses changed in honor of the band.^[499] Their song "Sweet Child o' Mine" has the most views on YouTube for a 1980's music video, and "November Rain" has the most for a 1990's music video, becoming the first from that decade to reach 1 billion views.^[500]

Several of the band's members are considered among the best in their respective fields and the world's most acclaimed—Rose has been called one of the best vocalists of all time,^{[501][502]} Slash ranked as one of the best guitar players of all time,^{[503][504]} and McKagan hailed as one of the best bass players in rock by publications ranging from *Rolling Stone* and *NME* to *Time* and *Guitar World*.^[505] Steven Adler was ranked as the 98th's greatest drummer of all time by *Rolling Stone*,^[506] and later member, guitarist Buckethead, has been ranked among the fastest and most innovative guitarists of all time by publications such as *Allmusic* and *Guitar World*.^{[507][508][509]}

Guns N' Roses has also received significant criticism throughout the years.^{[510][511][512]} The band received criticism for drug and alcohol use in the 80's & early 90's.^{[34][511][513]} The long periods of time between albums are another source of criticism.^[514] Songs such as "One in a Million" and the band's cover of Charles Manson's "Look at Your Game, Girl" were considerably controversial upon release.^{[515][516][517]} In addition, some lyrics have been regarded as sexist.^{[513][518][519]}

The band has also been criticized for tardiness and starting shows later than advertised.^{[520][521][522]} The band's late appearances and "war" with Reading and Leeds Festivals have been criticized by artists and peers of the group in the industry.^[523]

Guns n' Roses are still an example of how a band can move rock forward. Sometimes you think, "How can you top anything by The Yardbirds, or Zeppelin, or the Stones?" And then you hear Guns n' Roses, and it's inspiring. You can think that it's all been written, but it hasn't.

—Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry.^[489]

In October 2009, Ulrich Schnauss's record labels Independiente and Domino sued Guns N' Roses, alleging that the band had committed copyright infringement by using portions of Schnauss' compositions in the track "Riad N' the Bedouins" on the album *Chinese Democracy*.^[524] The band claimed the samples "were provided by a member of the album's production team who has assured us that these few seconds of sound were obtained legitimately."^[525] *Chinese Democracy* was banned in the People's Republic of China, due to perceived criticism in its title track of the Government of the People's Republic of China and reference to the Falun Gong.^{[526][527]} The Chinese government said through the media that it "turns its spear point on China".^{[528][529]}

Band members

Current members

- Axl Rose – lead vocals, piano, percussion (1985–present)
- Duff McKagan – bass, backing vocals, occasional lead vocals (1985–1997, 2016–present)
- Slash – lead and rhythm guitars, backing vocals (1985–1996, 2016–present)
- Dizzy Reed – keyboards, piano, backing vocals, percussion (1990–present)
- Richard Fortus – rhythm and lead guitars, backing vocals (2002–present)
- Frank Ferrer – drums, percussion (2006–present)
- Melissa Reese – synthesizers, keyboards, backing vocals, sub-bass, programming (2016–present)

Former members

- See List of Guns N' Roses members

Awards

American Music Awards^{[530][531][532][533]}

- 1989: Favorite Pop/Rock single – "Sweet Child o' Mine"
- 1990: Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist
- 1990: Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album – *Appetite for Destruction*
- 1992: Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist

Billboard Touring Awards^[427]

- 2017: Top Tour- "Not In This Lifetime... Tour"
- 2017: Top Draw- "Not In This Lifetime... Tour"

MTV Video Music Awards^{[530][534][535][536][537]}

- 1988: Best New Artist in a Video – "Welcome to the Jungle"
- 1989: Best Heavy Metal Video – "Sweet Child o' Mine"
- 1992: Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award
- 1992: Best Cinematography in a Video – "November Rain"

Revolver Golden Gods^[363]

- 2014: Ronnie James Dio Lifetime Achievement Award – Axl Rose

World Music Awards^[538]

- 1993: World's Best-Selling Hard Rock Artist of the Year
- 1993: World's Best Group

Discography

- Appetite for Destruction* (1987)
- G N' R Lies* (1988)
- Use Your Illusion I* (1991)

- *Use Your Illusion II* (1991)
- *"The Spaghetti Incident?"* (1993)
- *Chinese Democracy* (2008)

Tours

- The Early Days of Guns N' Roses (1985–87)
- Appetite for Destruction Tour (1987–88)
- Use Your Illusion Tour (1991–93)
- Chinese Democracy Tour (2001–11)
- Up Close and Personal Tour (2012)
- Appetite for Democracy (2012–14)
- Not in This Lifetime... Tour (2016–present)

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External links

- Official website (http://www.gunsnroses.com) 
 - Guns N' Roses (https://curlie.org/Arts/Music/Bands_and_Artists/G/Guns_N'_Roses) at Curlie
 - Guns N' Roses (https://www.discogs.com/artist/124535-Guns-N-Roses) discography at Discogs
 - Guns N' Roses (https://musicbrainz.org/artist/eeb1195b-f213-4ce1-b28c-8565211f8e43) discography at MusicBrainz
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GUNS N' ROSES

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CURRENT TOUR

EUROPE: SUMMER 2018

Tuesday, July 24	Laugardalsvöllur Reykjavik, IS	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 21	Ullevi Stadium Gothenburg, SE	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN AND GRAVEYARD	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, July 19	Valle Hovin Oslo, NO	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN AND GHOST	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, July 16	Tallinn Song Festival Grounds Tallinn, EE	WITH THE DEAD DAISIES AND VOLBEAT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, July 13	Otkritie Arena Moscow, RU	WITH OTHER NOISES	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, July 9	Stadion Slaski Chorzow, PL	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN AND VOLBEAT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 7	Festwiese Leipzig, DE	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN AND RIVAL SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, July 4	Goffertpark Nijmegen, NL	WITH GOJIRA AND VOLBEAT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, July 1	Estadio Olímpico Barcelona, ES	WITH NOTHING MORE AND VOLBEAT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, June 29	Download Festival Madrid, ES		MORE INFO	MORE INFO
Tuesday, June 26	Matmut Stadium Bordeaux, FR	WITH THE PINK SLIPS AND RIVAL SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, June 24	Maimarktgelände Mannheim, DE	WITH THE PINK SLIPS AND RIVAL SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, June 21	Graspop Metal Meeting Dessel, BE		MORE INFO	MORE INFO
Monday, June 18	Download Festival Paris, FR		MORE INFO	MORE INFO
Friday, June 15	Firenze Rocks Firenze, IT		MORE INFO	MORE INFO
Tuesday, June 12	Veltins Arena Gelsenkirchen, DE	WITH THE PINK SLIPS AND MANIC STREET PREACHERS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, June 9	Download Festival Donington Park, GB		MORE INFO	MORE INFO
Wednesday, June 6	Dyreskuepladsen Odense, DK	WITH GRETA VAN FLEET AND MANIC STREET PREACHERS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, June 3	Olympiastadion Berlin, DE	WITH GRETA VAN FLEET AND MANIC STREET PREACHERS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

FALL 2018

Sunday, November 25	Du Arena Abu Dhabi, AE	NIGHTRAIN PRESALE N/A		SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, November 21	Asia World Expo Arena Hong Kong, HK	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 20	Asia World Expo Arena Hong Kong, HK	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 17	Taoyuan International Baseball Stadium Taipei, TW	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, November 14	Surf Beach, Sunway Lagoon Kuala Lumpur, MY	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Sunday, November 11	Philippine Arena Manila, PH	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Thursday, November 8	GBK Stadium Jakarta, ID	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 3	Mother Of All Rock-Fest (Parque Fundidora) Monterrey, MX	PRESALE ENDED		SHOW ENDED

NORTH AMERICA: FALL 2017

Wednesday, November 29	The Forum Los Angeles, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 28	Valley View Casino Center San Diego, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 25	The Forum Los Angeles, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 24	Staples Center Los Angeles, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 21	Oracle Arena Oakland, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 18	Golden 1 Arena Sacramento, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 17	T-Mobile Arena Las Vegas, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 14	BOK Center Tulsa, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, November 13	Bridgestone Arena Nashville, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 10	Toyota Center Houston, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 7	BMO Harris Bradley Center Milwaukee, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, November 6	United Center Chicago, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 3	KFC Yum! Center Louisville, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

Thursday, November 2	Little Caesars Arena Detroit, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, October 30	Air Canada Centre Toronto, CA	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, October 29	Air Canada Centre Toronto, CA	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, October 26	Quicken Loans Arena Cleveland, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, October 23	XL Center Hartford, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, October 22	TD Garden Boston, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, October 19	Verizon Center Washington, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, October 16	Madison Square Garden New York, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, October 15	Madison Square Garden New York City, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, October 12	Prudential Center Newark, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, October 11	Madison Square Garden New York City, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, October 8	Wells Fargo Center Philadelphia, US	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, October 1	Estadio La Plata Buenos Aires, AR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP N/A	SHOW ENDED
Friday, September 29	Estadio Monumental Santiago, CL	PRESALE ENDED	VIP N/A	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, September 26	Allianz Parque Sao Paulo, BR	PRESALE N/A	VIP N/A	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, September 23	Rock In Rio Festival Rio De Janeiro, BR	PRESALE N/A	VIP N/A	SHOW ENDED
Friday, September 8	Alamodome San Antonio, US	WITH ZZ TOP	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, September 6	Sun Bowl Stadium El Paso, US	WITH ZZ TOP	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, September 3	The Gorge George, US	WITH ROYAL BLOOD	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, September 1	BC Place Stadium Vancouver, CA	WITH ROYAL BLOOD	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, August 30	Commonwealth Stadium Edmonton, CA	WITH OUR LADY PEACE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, August 27	Mosaic Stadium Regina, CA	WITH TBD	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, August 24	Investors Group Field Edmonton, CA	WITH OUR LADY PEACE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

August 24	Winnipeg, CA			
Monday, August 21	TD Place Stadium Ottawa, CA	WITH OUR LADY PEACE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, August 19	Parc Jean Drapeau Montreal, CA	WITH OUR LADY PEACE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, August 16	New Era Field Buffalo, US	WITH TBD	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, August 13	Hersheypark Stadium Hershey, US	WITH LIVE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, August 11	BB&T Field Winston-Salem, US	WITH LIVE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, August 8	Marlins Park Miami, US	WITH STURGILL SIMPSON	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, August 5	War Memorial Stadium Little Rock, US	WITH STURGILL SIMPSON	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, August 2	Sports Authority Field at Mile High Denver, US	WITH STURGILL SIMPSON	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, July 30	U.S. Bank Stadium Minneapolis, US	WITH DEFTONES	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, July 27	The Dome at America's Center St. Louis, US	WITH DEFTONES	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

SUMMER 2017

Saturday, July 15	Hayarkon Park Tel Aviv, IL	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, July 12	Goffertpark Nijmegen, NL	WITH BIFFY CLYRO, TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, July 10	Ernst Happel Stadium Vienna, AT	WITH WOLF MOTHER, TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, July 7	Stade De France Paris, FR	WITH BIFFY CLYRO, TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, July 4	Letnany Airport Prague, CZ	WITH BIFFY CLYRO	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 1	Kantolan Tapahtumapuisto Hameenlinna, FI	WITH THE DARKNESS, MICHAEL MONROE	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, June 29	Friends Arena Stockholm, SE	WITH THE DARKNESS, BACKYARD BABIES	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, June 27	Telia Parken Copenhagen, DK	WITH BIFFY CLYRO, BACKYARD BABIES	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, June 24	TW Classic Werchter, BE	WITH THE PRETENDERS, WOLF MOTHER, CHANNEL ZERO, FLEDDY MELCULY	VIP PACKAGES N/A	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, June 22	Messe Hannover, DE	WITH KILLING JOKE, PHIL CAMPBELL & THE BASTARD SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, June 20	Stadion Energa Gdansk Gdansk, PL	WITH KILLING JOKE, VIRGIN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

Saturday, June 17	London Stadium London, GB	WITH THE KILLS, TYLER BRYANT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, June 16	London Stadium London, GB	WITH THE KILLS, TYLER BRYANT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, June 13	Olympiastadion Munich, DE	WITH THE KILLS, PHIL CAMPBELL & THE BASTARD SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, June 10	Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari Imola, IT	WITH THE DARKNESS, PHIL CAMPBELL & THE BASTARD SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, June 7	Letzigrund Stadium Zurich, CH	WITH THE DARKNESS, PHIL CAMPBELL & THE BASTARD SONS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, June 4	Estadio Vicente Calderon Madrid, ES	WITH MARK LANEGAN, TYLER BRYANT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, June 2	Passeio Martimo De Algas Lisbon, PT	WITH MARK LANEGAN, TYLER BRYANT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, May 30	Estadio San Mames Bilbao, ES	WITH MARK LANEGAN, TYLER BRYANT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, May 27	Slane Castle Dublin, IE	WITH ROYAL BLOOD, MARK LANEGAN, OTHERKIN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, March 3	Autism Rocks Arena Dubai, AE	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, February 28	SCG Stadium Bangkok, TH	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, February 25	Changi Exhibition Centre Singapore, SG	WITH WOLF MOTHER	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, February 21	Domain Stadium Perth, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, February 18	Adelaide Oval Adelaide, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, February 14	Melbourne Cricket Ground Melbourne, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, February 11	ANZ Stadium Sydney, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, February 10	ANZ Stadium Sydney, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, February 7	QSAC Stadium Brisbane, AU	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, February 4	Western Springs Stadium Auckland, NZ	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, February 2	Westpac Stadium Wellington, NZ	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, January 29	Saitama Super Arena Tokyo, JP	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

Saturday, January 28	Saitama Super Arena Tokyo, JP	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, January 25	Yokohama Arena Yokohama, JP	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, January 22	World Arena Kobe, JP	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, January 21	Kyocera Dome Osaka, JP	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, November 30	Palacio de los Deportes Mexico City, MX	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 29	Palacio de los Deportes Mexico City, MX	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 26	Estadio Nacional San Jose, CR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, November 23	Estadio Atanasio Girardot Medellin, CO	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, November 20	Estadio Nacional Brasilia, BR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, November 17	Pedreira Paulo Leminski Curitiba, BR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 15	Estadio Nilton Santos- Engenhao Rio De Janeiro, BR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 12	Allianz Parque Sao Paulo, BR	NIGHTRAIN PRESALE N/A	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 11	Allianz Parque Sao Paulo, BR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 8	Estadio Beira-Rio Porto Alegre, BR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, November 5	River Plate Stadium Buenos Aires, AR	NIGHTRAIN PRESALE N/A	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, November 4	River Plate Stadium Buenos Aires, AR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, November 1	Estadio Rosario Rosario, AR	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, October 29	Estadio Nacional Santiago, CL	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, October 27	Estadio Monumental Lima, PE	PRESALE ENDED	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, August 22	Qualcomm Stadium San Diego, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, August 19	Dodger Stadium Los Angeles, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

Thursday, August 18	Dodger Stadium Los Angeles, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Monday, August 15	University of Phoenix Stadium Glendale, US	WITH ZAKK WYLDE, AND TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, August 12	CenturyLink Field Seattle, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, August 9	AT&T Park San Francisco, US	WITH THE STRUTS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, August 5	NRG Stadium Houston, US	WITH SKRILLEX	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, August 3	AT&T Stadium Arlington, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, July 31	Mercedes-Benz Superdome New Orleans, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, July 29	Camping World Stadium Orlando, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, July 27	Georgia Dome Atlanta, US	WITH THE CULT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, July 24	Metlife Stadium East Rutherford, US	WITH LENNY KRAVITZ	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 23	Metlife Stadium East Rutherford, US	WITH LENNY KRAVITZ	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, July 20	Gillette Stadium Foxboro, US	WITH LENNY KRAVITZ	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, July 19	Gillette Stadium Foxboro, US	WITH LENNY KRAVITZ	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 16	Rogers Centre Toronto, CA	WITH BILLY TALENT	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, July 14	Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, US	WITH WOLFMOOTHER	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Tuesday, July 12	Heinz Field Pittsburgh, US	WITH WOLFMOOTHER	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Saturday, July 9	Nissan Stadium Nashville, US	WITH CHRIS STAPLETON	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, July 6	Paul Brown Stadium Cincinnati, US	WITH TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, July 3	Soldier Field Chicago, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Friday, July 1	Soldier Field Chicago, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Wednesday, June 29	Arrowhead Stadium Kansas City, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Sunday, June 26	FedEx Field Washington, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED
Thursday, June 23	Ford Field Detroit, US	WITH ALICE IN CHAINS	VIP ENDED	SHOW ENDED

EXHIBIT C

List of awards and nominations received by Guns N' Roses

Guns N' Roses are an American [hard rock](#) band formed 1985 in [Los Angeles, California](#). They are led by frontman and co-founder [Axl Rose](#), and also include [Slash](#) (lead guitar), [Dizzy Reed](#) (keyboards), [Duff McKagan](#) (bass), [Melissa Reese](#) (keyboards), [Richard Fortus](#) (guitar), and [Frank Ferrer](#) (drums). Guns N' Roses have released six studio albums, all on the [Geffen Records](#) label: *[Appetite for Destruction](#)* (1987), *[G N' R Lies](#)* (1988), *[Use Your Illusion I](#)* (1991), *[Use Your Illusion II](#)* (1991), *["The Spaghetti Incident?"](#)* (1993), and *[Chinese Democracy](#)* (2008).^[1] Guns N' Roses have sold more than 45 million albums in the United States.^[2]

The band have won four [American Music Awards](#), including Favorite Pop/Rock Single for "Sweet Child o' Mine" in 1989, both Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist and Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album for *[Appetite for Destruction](#)* in 1990, and Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist for the second time in 1992. Guns N' Roses have received three [Grammy Awards](#) nominations, but has yet to win. The band was nominated for Best Hard Rock Performance three times, in 1990, 1992, and 1993. Overall, Guns N' Roses has received 14 awards from 31 nominations.

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Billboard Music Awards

Billboard Touring Awards

Echo Awards

Grammy Awards

Juno Awards

MTV Video Music Awards

World Music Awards

Other Awards

References

Guns N' Roses awards and nominations

Awards and nominations		
Award	Wins	Nominations
American Music Awards	4	8
Billboard Music Awards	1	4
Brit Awards	0	4
Echo Awards	0	1
Grammy Awards	0	3
Juno Awards	0	1
MTV Video Music Awards	4	8
World Music Awards	2	2
Totals		
Awards won	14	
Nominations		31

American Music Awards

The [American Music Awards](#) is an annual awards ceremony created by [Dick Clark](#) in 1973. Guns N' Roses have received four awards from eight nominations.^{[3][4][5][6]}

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1989	"Sweet Child o' Mine"	Favorite Pop/Rock Single	Won
	Guns N' Roses	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist	Nominated
	<i>Appetite for Destruction</i>	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album	Nominated
1990	Guns N' Roses	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist	Won
	<i>Appetite for Destruction</i>	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album	Won
1992	Guns N' Roses	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Artist	Won
		Favorite Pop/Rock Band/Duo/Group	Nominated
	<i>Use Your Illusion I</i>	Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album	Nominated

BRIT Awards

The BRIT Awards are the British Phonographic Industry's annual pop music awards. Guns N' Roses have received four nominations.^[7]

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1990	Guns N' Roses	Best International Newcomer	Nominated
		Best International Group	Nominated
	"Paradise City"	Best Music Video	Nominated
1992	Guns N' Roses	Best International Group	Nominated

Billboard Music Awards

The Billboard Music Award is an honor given by *Billboard*, a publication and music popularity chart covering the music business. The *Billboard* Music Awards show had been held annually since 1990 in December^[8]

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1988	Guns N' Roses	Top New Pop Artist	Won
2017	Guns N' Roses	Top Duo/Group	Nominated
		Top Touring Artist	Nominated
	<i>Not in This Lifetime... Tour</i>	Top Rock Tour	Nominated
2018	Guns N' Roses	Top Touring Artist	Nominated
		Top Rock Tour	Nominated

Billboard Touring Awards

The Billboard Touring Conference and Awards is an annual meeting sponsored by Billboard magazine which also honors the top international live entertainment industry artists and professionals. Established in 2004, it has thus been described as "part industry conference, part awards show".^[9]

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
2017	Not in This Lifetime... Tour	Top Boxscore	Nominated
		Top Tour/Top Draw	Won

Echo Awards

The ECHO awards are an accolade by the Deutsche Phono-Akademie, an association of recording companies of Germany to recognize outstanding achievement in the music industry. The Awards have been held since 1992.

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1993	Guns N' Roses	International Group of the Year ^[10]	Nominated

Grammy Awards

The Grammy Awards are awarded annually by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States. Guns N' Roses have received three nominations.^{[3][11][12][13]}

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1990	<i>G N' R Lies</i>	Best Hard Rock Performance	Nominated
1992	<i>Use Your Illusion I</i>	Best Hard Rock Performance	Nominated
1993	"Live and Let Die"	Best Hard Rock Performance	Nominated

Juno Awards

The JUNO Awards are presented annually to Canadian musical artists and bands to acknowledge their artistic and technical achievements in all aspects of music. Non-Canadian artists are eligible for several awards, including the International Album of the Year.

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
2009	<u>Chinese Democracy</u>	Juno Award for International Album of the Year ^[14]	Nominated

MTV Video Music Awards

The MTV Video Music Awards is an annual awards ceremony established in 1984 by MTV. Guns N' Roses have received four awards from nine nominations.^{[3][15][16][17][18]}

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1988	"Welcome to the Jungle"	<u>Best New Artist in a Video</u>	Won
1989	"Sweet Child O' Mine"	<u>Best Heavy Metal Video</u>	Won
		<u>Best Group Video</u>	Nominated
	"Paradise City"	<u>Best Stage Performance in a Video</u>	Nominated
1991	"You Could Be Mine"	<u>Best Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Video</u>	Nominated
		<u>Best Video from a Film</u>	Nominated
1992	Guns N' Roses	<u>Video Vanguard Award</u>	Won
	"November Rain"	<u>Best Cinematography in a Video</u>	Won
		<u>Best Art Direction in a Video</u>	Nominated

World Music Awards

The World Music Awards honors recording artists based on worldwide sales figures provided by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. Guns N' Roses have received two awards.^[19]

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
1993	Guns N' Roses	World's Best-Selling Hard Rock Artist of the Year	Won
		World's Best Group	Won

Other Awards

Year	Nominee/work	Award	Result
2008	<i>If the World</i> from <u>Body of Lies</u>	<u>13th Satellite Awards</u> : Best Original Song ^[20]	Nominated
2014	Axl Rose	<u>Revolver Golden Gods</u> <u>Ronnie James Dio</u> Lifetime Achievement award ^[21]	Won
2015	<u>Appetite for Democracy 3D</u>	<u>International 3D & Advanced Imaging Society Awards</u> : Best 3D Music Entertainment feature ^[22]	Won

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EXHIBIT D

WIKIPEDIA

Appetite for Destruction

Appetite for Destruction is the debut studio album by American hard rock band Guns N' Roses. It was released on July 21, 1987, by Geffen Records.

The album was released to little mainstream attention in 1987. It was not until the following year that it became a massive commercial success, after the band had toured and received airplay with the singles "Welcome to the Jungle", "Paradise City" and "Sweet Child o' Mine". It topped the *Billboard 200* and became the best-selling debut album of all time, as well as the eleventh best-selling album of all time in the United States. With over 30 million copies sold worldwide, it is also one of the best-selling records of all time.

Although critics originally were ambivalent toward the album, *Appetite for Destruction* has since received retrospective acclaim and been viewed as one of the greatest albums of all time. In 2018, it was re-released as a remastered box set to similar acclaim.

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Background

Guns N' Roses first recordings were for a planned EP in March 1985, shortly after forming, with "Don't Cry", a cover of "Heartbreak Hotel", "Think About You" and "Anything Goes".^[1] However, plans for the release fell through, as original guitarist Tracii Guns left the band, being replaced by Slash.^[2] Shortly afterward, the classic lineup of Axl Rose, Duff McKagan, Slash, Steven Adler and Izzy Stradlin was finalized.^[3]

After heavy touring of the Los Angeles club scene, the group signed with Geffen Records in March 1986.^[4] In December of that year, the group released the four-song EP *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide*, designed to keep interest in the band alive while the group withdrew from the club scene to work in the studio.^{[5][6]} The EP release was designed to sooth over the label, who felt the band didn't have enough songs to record an album.^[7]

Singer Axl Rose stated that many of the songs on the album were written while the band was performing on the Los Angeles club circuit, and a number of songs that would be featured on later Guns N' Roses albums were considered for *Appetite for Destruction*, such as "Back Off Bitch", "You Could Be Mine", "November Rain" and "Don't Cry". It is said that the reason for not putting "November Rain" on it was because they had already agreed to put "Sweet Child 'O Mine" on it and thus already had a ballad on the album (however, both *Use Your Illusion* albums would contain more than one ballad).^{[8][9]} Producer Spencer Proffer was hired to record "Nightrain" and "Sweet Child o' Mine" to test his chemistry with the band.^[10] The band eventually recorded 9 songs during these sessions, including "Heartbreak Hotel", "Don't Cry", "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Shadow of Your Love".^[10] In mid to late 1986, the band recorded demos with Nazareth guitarist Manny Charlton,^[10] which were released in 2018. (See Below for more info) The band initially considered Paul Stanley of KISS to produce, but he was rejected after he wanted to change Adler's drum set more than Adler wanted.^[10] Robert John "Mutt" Lange was also considered, but the label didn't want to spend the extra money on a famous producer.^[10] Ultimately, Mike Clink (who had produced several Triumph records) was chosen,^[11] and the group recorded "Shadow of Your Love" first with Clink as a test.^[10]

In 1999, Rose had the album re-recorded with the then current lineup (Rose, Robin Finck, Tommy Stinson, Paul Tobias, Josh Freese, Dizzy Reed & Chris Pitman) to "spruce up" the album with new recording techniques.^[12] The re-recorded version of the album was never released, although an edited clip of "Sweet Child O' Mine" featuring the second half of the song using the re-recorded version was included over the credits of the movie *Big Daddy* in 1999.

Recording and production

Appetite for Destruction



Studio album by Guns N' Roses

Released	July 21, 1987	
Recorded	January 18–March 23, 1987	
Studio	Rumbo Studios, Canoga Park, California Take One Studio, Burbank, California The Record Plant, Los Angeles, California Can Am Studio, Tarzana, California	
Genre	Hard rock · heavy metal · hair metal	
Length	53:51	
Label	Geffen	
Producer	Mike Clink	
Guns N' Roses chronology		
<i>Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide</i> (1986)	<i>Appetite for Destruction</i> (1987)	<i>Guns N' Roses (EP)</i> (1988)

Guns N' Roses studio album chronology

<i>Appetite for Destruction</i> (1987)	<i>G N' R Lies</i> (1988)
---	---------------------------

Singles from Appetite for Destruction

- "It's So Easy"

Released: June 15, 1987
- "Welcome to the Jungle"

Released: October 3, 1987
- "Sweet Child o' Mine"

Released: August 17, 1988
- "Paradise City"

Released: November 30, 1988
- "Nightrain"

Released: July 29, 1989

Alternative cover



Promo photo of Guns N' Roses classic lineup, from left to right, Izzy Stradlin, Steven Adler, Axl Rose, Duff McKagan, & Slash.

After some weeks of rehearsal, the band entered Daryl Dragon's Rumbo Recorders in January 1987.

^[10] Two weeks were spent recording basic tracks, with Clink splicing together the best takes with his razor blade.^[10] Clink worked eighteen-hour days for the next month, with Slash overdubbing in the afternoon and evening, and Rose performing vocals. Slash struggled to find a guitar sound before coming up with a Gibson Les Paul copy plugged into a Marshall amplifier. He spent hours with Clink paring down and structuring his solos. The total budget for the album was about \$370,000.^[9] According to drummer Steven Adler, the percussion was done in just six days, but Rose's vocals took much longer as he insisted on doing them one line at a time, in a perfectionism that drove the rest of the band away from the studio as he worked.^[13] Final overdubs and mixing were done at Mediasound Studios, and mastering at Sterling Sound, New York City.^[14]

Many of the songs on *Appetite For Destruction* began as solo tracks that individual band members wrote separate from the band, only to be completed later. These songs include "It's So Easy" (Duff

McKagan) and "Think About You" (Izzy Stradlin). "Rocket Queen" was an unfinished Slash/McKagan/Adler song that was written from their earlier band Road Crew, whereas "Anything Goes", written by Hollywood Rose and included in their compilation album *The Roots of Guns N' Roses*, was later re-written for *Appetite*. Most of the songs reflect the band's personal experiences and daily life, such as "Welcome to the Jungle", some of the lyrics of which Rose wrote after he encountered a man in New York shortly after arriving there from Indiana in 1980,^[15] and "Mr. Brownstone", which is about the band's problems with heroin. Lyrics to some of the songs focus on the band members' younger years, like "Out ta Get Me", which focuses on lead singer Axl Rose's constant trouble with the law as a youth in Indiana.^[16]

Artwork

The album's original cover art, based on Robert Williams' painting *Appetite for Destruction*, depicted a robotic rapist about to be punished by a metal avenger. After several music retailers refused to stock the album, the label compromised and put the controversial cover art inside, replacing it with an image depicting a Celtic cross and skulls of the five band members with (designed by Billy White Jr., originally as a tattoo), each skull representing one member of the band: Izzy Stradlin, top skull; Steven Adler, left skull; Axl Rose, center skull; Duff McKagan, right skull; and Slash, bottom skull. In a 2016 interview, Billy White Jr. explained, "The cross and skulls that looked like the band was Axl's idea, the rest was me. The knot work in the cross was a reference to Thin Lizzy, a band Axl and I both loved."^[17]

The photographs used for the back of the album and liner notes were taken by Robert John, Marc Canter, Jack Lue, Leonard McCordie, and Greg Freeman. The original cover was supposed to be on the 2008 vinyl reissue, though the record label replaced it with the "Skulls" art at the last minute.^[18]

The band stated the artwork is "a symbolic social statement, with the robot representing the industrial system that's raping and polluting our environment."^[19] In albums which were issued on double sided media (vinyl records and audio cassettes) the two sides were not conventionally labeled "A" and "B", but "G" and "R". Tracks 1–6 which compose side "G" all deal with drugs and hard life in the big city ("Guns" side). The remaining tracks, which compose side "R", all deal with love, sex and relationships ("Roses" side). In an interview with *That Metal Show* in 2011, Rose stated his original idea for the cover art was to be the photo of the Space Shuttle Challenger exploding, which was on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1986, but Geffen refused it saying it was "in bad taste".^[20]

Release and promotion

Appetite for Destruction was released by Geffen on July 21, 1987, receiving little notice from American press and radio, apart from some airplay in California. Music journalist Stephen Davis later attributed this to competing rock music in the mainstream at the time, including Aerosmith's comeback hit *Permanent Vacation*, Def Leppard's presence on radio with their *Hysteria* album, and the dominance of U2's spiritual rock on MTV's prime-time viewership.^[21]

In the week of August 6, 1987, *Appetite for Destruction* debuted at number 182 on the *Billboard* 200. The album would not top the chart until August 6, 1988, after the band had toured and received radio and music video airplay with singles such as "Welcome to the Jungle", "Paradise City" and "Sweet Child o' Mine".^[22] The album spent four non-consecutive weeks at number one ^[23] and a total of 147 weeks on the *Billboard* 200.^[24] "We thought we'd made a record that might do as well as, say, Motörhead," noted Slash. "It was totally uncommercial. It took a year [*sic*] for it to even get on the charts. No one wanted to know about it."^[25]

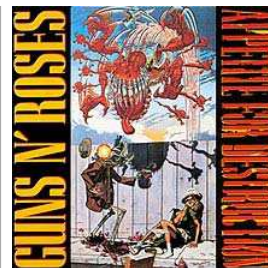
By September 2008, the album had been certified 18x platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), having shipped over 18 million copies in the United States,^[26] making it the country's 11th best-selling album ever.^[27] According to *Billboard* in 2008, it is also the best-selling debut album of all time in the US.^[28] That year, Sky News reported the album's worldwide sales to be approximately 28 million copies, making it one of the best-selling albums of all time.^[29] More recent figures have it at approximately 30 million sold worldwide.^[30]

Reception and legacy

Appetite for Destruction was not well received by contemporary critics.^[41] Many complained that its massive success with consumers was fostered by the taboo of "sex, drugs and rock & roll" during the 1980s, when much of the cultural atmosphere in the US became informed by the Reagan-Bush Administration, the AIDS crisis, and the popularity of MTV.^[42] Reviewing in 1987, Dave Ling from *Metal Hammer* dismissed the album as an inferior mix of elements from bands such as Aerosmith, Hanoi Rocks, and AC/DC.^[41] Critics in England were more positive; *Kerrang!* claimed that "rock is at last being wrestled from the hands of the bland, the weak, the jaded, the tired, the worn, and being thrust back into the hands of the real raunch rebels."^[21] It was voted the 26th best album of the year in *The Village Voice's* 1988 *Pazz & Jop*, an annual poll of American critics nationwide.^[43] Robert Christgau, the poll's supervisor, was qualified in his praise while reviewing the album for his 1990 book *Christgau's Record Guide: The '80s*. While applauding Rose's "effortless, convincing vocal abilities" as "undeniable and [setting] him apart from his contemporaries", the journalist found his performance undermined by questionable lyrics that reveal darker ideas: "He doesn't love 'Night Train', he loves alcoholism. And once that sweet child o' his proves her devotion by sucking his cock for the portacam, the evil slut is ready for 'See me hit you you fall down.'"^[32]

In a retrospective review for *The Rolling Stone Album Guide* (2004), Ann Powers wrote that Guns N' Roses "produced a unique mix of different rock values," such as "speed and musicianship, flash and dirt", on an album that "changed hard rock's sensibilities at the time."^[38] Stephen Thomas Erlewine also viewed it as a "turning point for hard rock" in his review for AllMusic and felt Rose's singing and songwriting are enhanced by Slash and Stradlin's dual guitar playing, which helped make *Appetite for Destruction* "the best metal record of the late '80s".^[31] According to Jimmy Martin of *The Quietus*, as the 1980s' best hard rock album, *Appetite for Destruction* had an "unrefined, punk quality" that marked a "shift away" from hair metal bands commercialized by MTV.^[41]

According to *Billboard* magazine's Christa Titus, *Appetite for Destruction* appealed to rock music's various listeners because the band incorporated "metal's forceful playing, punk rock's



Original cover, which was replaced shortly after release

Professional ratings	
Review scores	
Source	Rating
<u>AllMusic</u>	 ^[31]
<i>Christgau's Record Guide</i>	 B ^[32]
<i>Encyclopedia of Popular Music</i>	 ^[33]
<i>Entertainment Weekly</i>	 A ^[34]
<i>MusicHound Rock</i>	5/5 ^[35]
<i>Pitchfork</i>	10/10 ^[36]
<i>Rolling Stone</i>	 ^[37]
<i>The Rolling Stone Album Guide</i>	 ^[38]
<i>Spin</i>	 ^[39]
<u>Sputnikmusic</u>	2/5 ^[40]

rebellious themes, glam metal's aesthetic, and bluesy guitar riffs that appealed to purists."^[22] Russell Hall, the features writer for *Gibson's* online publication, said the album "injected a much-needed dose of '70s-style rebellion into the frothy pop metal of the '80s", by "combining the swagger of late '60s *Stones* and vintage *Aerosmith* with the menace of punk and a trash-glam aesthetic".^[44]

Writing for *Pitchfork*, Maura Johnston called the album "a watershed moment in '80s rock that chronicled every vice of Los Angeles led by the lye-voiced Axl Rose and a legendary, switchblade-sharp band."^[36] *BBC Music's* Dennis O'Dell said the engagingly hedonistic album remains the band's best,^[45] as did Ric Albano of *Classic Rock* magazine: "This band would never again reach this level of importance and breakthrough originality."^[46] In a 2000 list, *Q* named it one of the greatest metal albums ever and hailed it as "a riotous celebration of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll".^[47] *Chuck Klosterman* said it would be the only pop metal album to make a theoretical list of rock's ten best albums.^[48] and *Chuck Eddy* named it one of his essential hair metal records; it was "the greatest album ever made about how you can't run away from yourself", he wrote in *Spin*.^[49] On the other hand, *Sputnikmusic* believed the album has been somewhat overrated and that most of the songs suffer by comparison with the highlights "Welcome to the Jungle", "Sweet Child o' Mine", "Paradise City", "Mr. Brownstone", and "Rocket Queen".^[40]

Accolades

According to *Acclaimed Music*, *Appetite for Destruction* is the 63rd most ranked record on critics' all-time lists.^[50]

- In 1989, *Rolling Stone* ranked *Appetite for Destruction* as the 27th best album of the 1980s.^[51]
- The same magazine later ranked it at sixty-two on their list of the *500 Greatest Albums of All Time*.^[52]
- In 2001, *Q* magazine named *Appetite for Destruction* as one of the 50 Heaviest Albums of All Time.^[53]
- In 2004, *Q* magazine also named *Appetite for Destruction* as one of the greatest *Classic rock* Albums Ever.^[54]
- In 2003, *VH1* named *Appetite for Destruction* the 42nd Greatest Album of All Time.^[55]
- In 2002, *Pitchfork* ranked *Appetite for Destruction* 59th on their *Top 100 Albums of the 1980s*.^[56]
- It was ranked 18 in *Spin* magazine's "100 Greatest Albums, 1985–2005".^[57]
- In 2006, *Kerrang!* ranked the album #1 on the list of best rock albums.^[58]
- In 2006, the album was included in the book *1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die*.^[59]
- The album was ranked 32 on Rock Hall of Fame's 'definitive 200' album list, developed by the NARM, the National Association of Recording Merchandisers.^[60]
- In 2006, *Q* magazine placed the album at #10 in its list of "40 Best Albums of the '80s".^[61]
- In 2006, the album was placed No. 2 on *Guitar World* magazine's list of the 100 Greatest Guitar Albums of All Time.^[62]
- In 2011, Australian radio station Triple M listed *Appetite for Destruction* #1 in their list of the 250 most life changing albums.
- In 2012, *Rolling Stone* ranked *Appetite for Destruction* as the 62nd greatest album of all time.^[63]
- In 2012, *Slant Magazine* listed the album at #37 on its list of "Best Albums of the 1980s".^[64]
- In 2012, *Clash* added the album to its Classic Albums Hall of Fame.^[65]

Remastered version

On April 30, 2018, billboards appeared in several large cities, and a website was launched, with the tagline "Destruction Is Coming."^[66] The website was updated with a countdown clock to May 4, 2018, and a snippet of the *Hollywood Rose* song "Shadow of Your Love" playing.^[67] Journalist Mitch Lafon stated the campaign was for a deluxe edition of *Appetite for Destruction*.^[68] A video announcement was inadvertently released a day early, detailing the *Appetite for Destruction: Locked N' Loaded* edition, which was released June 29, 2018. The box set includes 73 songs (49 of which were previously unreleased) on four compact discs and seven 12-inch 180-gram LP's. It includes remastered versions of *Live ?!*@ Like a Suicide*, an EP of b-sides, 25 recordings from the group's 1986 Sound City Studios sessions with producer *Manny Charlton*, and two previously unreleased tracks from the group's sessions with Mike Clink. Three of the four songs from the *G N' R Lies* EP are included, with the exception of the controversial "One in a Million".^[69]

In addition to the music, the includes a 96-page book with unreleased photos from Rose's personal archive, 12 lithographs visualizing each song on the album and assorted replica memorabilia.^[70] "Shadow of Your Love" was released as a single on May 4, 2018, the band's first single in almost a decade.^{[71][72]} The full Locked N' Loaded edition initially retailed for \$999; a deluxe edition which includes the five discs and extras and standard editions with just the remastered album and bonus tracks were also made available.^{[73][74]} In addition, the deluxe and super deluxe versions were made available for streaming and paid download.

On May 21, 2018, the band released the unseen music video for *It's So Easy* on *Apple Music*.^[75] "Welcome to the Jungle (1986 Sound City Session)", "Move to The City (1988 Acoustic Version)" and "November Rain (Piano Version, 1986 Sound City Session)"^[76] were released as promotional singles in June before the album's release. A hidden tape of the band's five-song 1985 Mystic Studios demo session is included as an *easter egg* in one of the drawers of the Locked N' Loaded edition.^[77]

A Pop-up shop was opened in *London* on the day of release, featuring Guns N' Roses themed drinks, a tattoo artist, merchandise, and a large screen showing the band's 1988 show at *The Ritz*.^[78] The remastered release resulted in *Appetite for Destruction* re-entering the top 10 of the *Billboard 200* for the first time in 29 years.^[79]

Reception

The box set received universal critical acclaim, with *Metacritic* scoring it 95 out of 100, based on 9 reviews.^[80] It was nominated for a *Grammy* award for *Best Boxed Set*, their first nomination since 1993.^[86]

Track listing

Original release

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

<i>Appetite for Destruction</i> ^[14]			
Side one			
No.	Title	Length	
	<i>Appetite for Democracy</i>		<i>Appetite for Destruction: Locked N'</i>

Appetite for Destruction: Locked N' Loaded



Compilation album by Guns N' Roses

Released	June 29, 2018
Recorded	1985-1988
Studio	Rumbo Studios, Canoga Park, CA Take One Studio, Burbank, CA The Record Plant, Los Angeles, CA Can Am Studio, Tarzana, CA
Length	211:25 (Super Deluxe) 127:08 (Deluxe)
Label	Universal Music Group
Producer	Mike Clink, Manny Charlton

Guns N' Roses chronology

<i>Appetite for Democracy</i>	<i>Appetite for Destruction: Locked N'</i>
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- "Welcome to the Jungle"
- "It's So Easy" (Guns N' Roses, West Arkeen)
- "Nightrain"
- "Out ta Get Me"
- "Mr. Brownstone"
- "Paradise City"

Side two**No. Title**

- "My Michelle"
- "Think About You"
- "Sweet Child o' Mine"
- "You're Crazy"
- "Anything Goes" (Guns N' Roses, Chris Weber)
- "Rocket Queen"

Total length:

4:31
3:21
4:26
4:20
3:46
6:46

3D ***Loaded***
(2014) (2018)

Singles from *Appetite for Destruction: Locked N' Loaded*

- "Shadow of Your Love"
Released: May 4, 2018

Alternative cover

The contents of the Locked N' Loaded edition

Super deluxe edition

The "Locked N' Loaded" Edition and the "Super Deluxe Edition" have the same musical contents. Disc one is the original album.

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

Professional ratings**Aggregate scores**

Source	Rating
<u>Metacritic</u>	95/100 ^[80]
Review scores	
Source	Rating
<i>Allmusic</i>	Positive ^[81]
<i>Drowned in Sound</i>	★★★★★ ^[82]
<i>Kerrang!</i>	★★★★★ ^[83]
<i>Rolling Stone</i>	★★★★★ ^[84]
Slant Magazine	★★★★★ ^[85]

Disc 2: B-Sides N' EP's**No. Title**

- "Reckless Life"
- "Nice Boys"
- "Move to the City" (Live)
- "Mama Kin"
- "Shadow of Your Love" (Live)
- "You're Crazy" (Acoustic Version)
- "Patience"
- "Used to Love Her"
- "You're Crazy"

Writer(s)

Axl Rose, Izzy Stradlin, Chris Weber
Angry Anderson, Mick Cocks, Geordie Leach, Dallas "Digger" Royall, Peter Wells
Stradlin, Weber, Del James
Steven Tyler
Axl Rose, Izzy Stradlin, Paul Tobias

Length

3:21
3:02
3:34
3:41
3:03
4:25
5:54
3:13
4:10
3:54
4:59

- "It's So Easy" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987)
- "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987)
- "Whole Lotta Rosie" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987)

Guns N' Roses, West Arkeen
Bob Dylan
Angus Young, Bon Scott, Malcolm Young

Total length:**47:21**

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

Disc 3: 1986 *Sound City Session***No. Title**

- "Welcome to the Jungle"
- "Nightrain"
- "Out ta Get Me"
- "Paradise City"
- "My Michelle"
- "Think About You"
- "You're Crazy"
- "Anything Goes" (Guns N' Roses, Chris Weber)
- "Rocket Queen"
- "Shadow of Your Love" (Rose, Stradlin, Paul Tobias)
- "Heartbreak Hotel (Elvis Presley cover)" (Mae Boren Axton, Thomas Durden, Elvis Presley)
- "Jumpin' Jack Flash (The Rolling Stones cover)" (Jagger/Richards, Bill Wyman)

Length

4:59
4:49
4:01
5:34
4:21
3:50
3:21
4:35
6:06
2:38
4:36
3:21

Total length: 52:11

Disc 4: 1986 Sound City Session N' More

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Length
1.	"Shadow of Your Love"	Rose, Stradlin, Tobias	3:05
2.	"Move to the City"	Stradlin, Weber, Del James	3:16
3.	"Ain't Goin' Down No More" (Instrumental Version)	Guns N' Roses, Weber	3:30
4.	"The Plague"	Guns N' Roses, Weber	0:54
5.	"Nice Boys"	Anderson, Cocks, Leach, Royall, Wells	2:58
6.	"Back off Bitch"	Rose, Tobias	4:39
7.	"Reckless Life"	Rose, Stradlin, Weber	2:45
8.	"Mama Kin"	Tyler	3:26
9.	"New Work Tune"	Guns N' Roses, Weber	3:25
10.	"November Rain" (Piano Version)	Rose	10:18
11.	"Move to the City" (Acoustic Version)	Stradlin, Weber, James	3:41
12.	"You're Crazy" (Acoustic Version)	Guns N' Roses	4:06
13.	"November Rain" (Acoustic Version)	Rose	5:00
14.	"Jumpin' Jack Flash" (Acoustic Version)	Jagger/Richards, Wyman	3:52
15.	"Move to the City" (1988 Acoustic version)	Stradlin, Weber, James	3:26
Total length:			58:21

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

Hidden bonus cassette: 1985 Mystic Studio Session

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Welcome to the Jungle"	4:52
2.	"Anything Goes" (Guns N' Roses, Weber)	5:03
3.	"Don't Cry" (Rose, Stradlin)	4:36
4.	"Back Off Bitch" (Rose, Tobias)	4:46
5.	"Think About You"	3:58

A fifth disc is included; a Blu-ray disc, which has 96 kHz 24-bit 5.1 Surround Sound & Remastered Stereo mixes, mixed by [Elliot Scheiner](#) and [Frank Filipetti](#). It includes all of *Appetite for Destruction*, alongside bonus tracks "Shadow of Your Love", "Patience", "Used to Love Her", "You're Crazy", and "Move to the City (1988 Acoustic version)". In addition, it includes music videos for "Welcome to the Jungle", "Sweet Child O' Mine", "Paradise City", "Patience", and a previously unreleased video of "It's So Easy".^[87]

Deluxe edition

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

Disc 1: Appetite for Destruction Remastered

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Welcome to the Jungle"	4:33
2.	"It's So Easy" (Guns N' Roses, West Arkeen)	3:22
3.	"Nightrain"	4:28
4.	"Out ta Get Me"	4:23
5.	"Mr. Brownstone"	3:48
6.	"Paradise City"	6:45
7.	"My Michelle"	3:39
8.	"Think About You"	3:51
9.	"Sweet Child o' Mine"	5:56
10.	"You're Crazy"	3:17
11.	"Anything Goes" (Guns N' Roses, Chris Weber)	3:26
12.	"Rocket Queen"	6:13
Total length:		53:41

All tracks written by Guns N' Roses, except where noted.

Disc 2

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Length
1.	"Reckless Life"	Axl Rose , Izzy Stradlin , Chris Weber	3:21
2.	"Nice Boys" (Rose Tattoo cover)	Angry Anderson , Mick Cocks , Geordie Leach , Dallas "Digger" Royall , Peter Wells	3:02
3.	"Move to the City" (Live)	Stradlin, Weber, Del James	3:34
4.	"Mama Kin" (Aerosmith cover)	Steven Tyler	3:41
5.	"Shadow of Your Love" (Live)	Axl Rose , Izzy Stradlin , Paul Tobias	3:03
6.	"Welcome to the Jungle" (1986 Sound City Sessions)		4:59
7.	"Nightrain" (1986 Sound City Sessions)		4:49
8.	"Out ta Get Me" (1986 Sound City Sessions)		4:01
9.	"Paradise City" (1986 Sound City Sessions)		5:34
10.	"My Michelle" (1986 Sound City Sessions)		4:21
11.	"Shadow of Your Love"	Rose, Stradlin, Tobias	3:05
12.	"It's So Easy" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987)	Guns N' Roses, West Arkeen	3:54
13.	"Knockin' on Heaven's Door" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987)	Bob Dylan	4:59
14.	"Whole Lotta Rosie" (Live at the Marquee Club London / 1987, AC/DC cover)	Angus Young , Bon Scott , Malcolm Young	4:06
15.	"You're Crazy" (Acoustic version)		4:25
16.	"Patience"		5:54

17.	"Used to Love Her"		3:13
18.	"Move to the City" (1988 Acoustic version)	Stradlin, Weber, James	3:26
Total length:			1:13:27

Personnel

Credits are adapted from the album's liner notes.^[14]

Guns N' Roses

- W. Axl Rose – lead vocals, synthesizer on "Paradise City", percussion
- Slash – lead guitar, rhythm guitar, acoustic guitar, slide guitar, talkbox
- Izzy Stradlin – rhythm guitar, lead guitar, backing vocals, percussion
- Duff "Rose" McKagan – bass, backing vocals
- Steven Adler – drums, percussion, backing vocals

Production

- Mike Clink – production, engineering
- Steve Thompson, mixing
- Michael Barbiero – mixing
- George Marino – LP, cassette mastering
- Barry Diament – CD mastering
- Dave Reitzas – assistant engineer
- Micajah Ryan – assistant engineer
- Andy Udoff – assistant engineer
- Jeff Poe – assistant engineer
- Julian Stoll – assistant engineer
- Victor Deyglio – assistant engineer
- Adriana Smith - background vocals on "Rocket Queen" (uncredited)
- Ted Jensen - Boxed set mastering at Sterling Sound, NYC

Design

- Robert Williams – "Appetite for Destruction" painting
- Michael Hodgson – art direction and design
- Robert John – photography
- Jack Lue – photography
- Greg Freeman – photography
- Marc Canter – photography
- Leonard McCardie – photography
- Bill White Jr. – cross tattoo design
- Andy Engell – cross tattoo redrawing

Charts

Chart	Peak position
Australian Albums (ARIA) ^[88]	7
Austrian Albums (Ö3 Austria) ^[89]	3
Belgian Albums (Ultratop Flanders) ^[90]	11
Belgian Albums (Ultratop Wallonia) ^[91]	5
Canadian Albums (Billboard) ^[92]	7
Dutch Albums (Album Top 100) ^[93]	3
French Albums (SNEP) ^[94]	7
German Albums (Offizielle Top 100) ^[95]	2
Irish Albums (IRMA) ^[96]	7
Italian Albums (FIMI) ^[97]	5
New Zealand Albums (RMNZ) ^[98]	1
Norwegian Albums (VG-lista) ^[99]	9
Polish Albums (ZPAV) ^[100]	21
Swedish Albums (Sverigetopplistan) ^[101]	12
Swiss Albums (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[102]	5
UK Albums (OCC) ^[103]	5
US Billboard 200 ^[104]	1
US Top Rock Albums (Billboard) ^[105]	4
US Top Hard Rock Albums (Billboard) ^[106]	1

Certifications

See also

- List of best-selling albums
- List of best-selling albums in the United States
- List of best-selling albums in Argentina

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122. "American album certifications – Guns N' Roses – Appetite For Destruction" (https://www.riaa.com/gold-platinum/?tab_active=default-award&ar=Guns+N%27+Roses&ti=Appetite+For+Destruction#search_section). **Recording Industry Association of America**. *If necessary, click Advanced, then click Format, then select Album, then click SEARCH.*

External links

- Appetite for Destruction* (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0b-5OCx8DoOgMj74HaY8PLOkVQ-OEet8>) at YouTube (streamed copy where licensed)
- Appetite for Destruction* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150922101510/http://www.acclaimedmusic.net/Current/A693.htm>) at **Acclaimed Music** (list of accolades)
- Appetite for Destruction* (<https://www.discogs.com/master/9467>) at **Discogs** (list of releases)

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https://www.riaa.com/gold-platinum/?tab_active=default-award&cat=5WEET+CHILD+O+N&search_section

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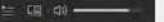
AWARD	ARTIST	TITLE	CERTIFICATION DATE	LABEL	FORMAT
 <div>SHARE</div>	GUNS N' ROSES	SWEET CHILD O' MINE	December 18, 2008	GEFFEN	SINGLE
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 <div>SHARE</div>	GUNS N' ROSES	SWEET CHILD O' MINE	June 27, 2005	GEFFEN	SINGLE
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 <div>SHARE</div>	GUNS N' ROSES	SWEET CHILD O' MINE	June 27, 1989	GEFFEN	SINGLE
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 Sweet Child O' Mine
Guns N' Roses



Sweet Child O' Mine
Guns N' Roses





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- Sweet Child O' Mine
on Appetite for Destruction [Explicit]
- Welcome To The Jungle
on Appetite for Destruction [Explicit]
- Paradise City
on Appetite for Destruction [Explicit]
- Sweet Child O' Mine
on Greatest Hits
- November Rain
on Use Your Illusion I
- Knockin' On Heaven's Door
on Greatest Hits
- Knockin' On Heaven's Door
on Use Your Illusion II [Explicit]
- Welcome To The Jungle
on Greatest Hits
- Patience
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- Paradise City
on Greatest Hits

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Sweet Child O' Mine
Appetite for Destruction • 1987



Sweet Child O' Mine
Crescent Lake • 1988



November Rain
Greatest Hits • 1991



Sweet Child O' Mine
Appetite for Destruction (Super Deluxe) • 2011



Welcome to the Jungle
Appetite for Destruction (Super Deluxe) • 2011



Knockin' on Heaven's Door
Greatest Hits • 1991



Paradise City
Appetite for Destruction • 1987



Welcome to the Jungle
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Sweet Child O' Mine
Appetite for Destruction (Super Deluxe Edition) (Explicit)

5:58



Paradise City
Appetite for Destruction (Super Deluxe Edition) (Explicit)

6:45



Knockin' On Heaven's Door
Use Your Illusion II

3:30

ARTIST RADIO



Guns N' Roses Radio
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